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SHIN HIGH SCHOOL D×D

真ハイスクールD×D

修学旅行のサンシャワー

ファンタジア文庫

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「今日はイベント前の観光ね」
「京都を楽しみましょう」
「日本の寺社周り……生粋の吸血鬼はどこまで平気なのかしら」
「いやいや、どこもかしこも観光名所ばかりですな」

Welsh Dragon & Crescent Circle Dragon

Devils, Fallen Angels, and even Dragons —they're all my comrades. It's wonderful, isn't it.

And I — [Oppai Dragon], am both a Devil and a Dragon.

I'll defeat everyone who dares to put the children in danger!

Welsh Dragon & Crescent Circle Dragon

—It happened during the match between team [Sekiryuutei of Blazing Truth] and team [Rias Gremory].

The Legendary [Welsh Dragon], Red Dragon Emperor Ddraig, was up against his equal, the Legendary Evil Dragon Crom Cruach. They moved to a place quite distant from the Kuoh Academy replica where both the [Kings], Rias Gremory and Hyoudou Issei, were supposed to be at the moment. Both of them spread their wings and flew through the sky as they glared at each other. In contrast with Ddraig whose body was that of a gigantic Dragon, Crom Cruach stayed in his human form. Ddraig flashed back and thought, 'In the distant past, Crom Cruach would have faced me in his magnificent Dragon form'. However, he must've learned that his current form was the best as he had been watching over the human world for a long time. Crom Cruach then said as if realising the same thing,

"Would it make it easier for you if I return to my original form?"

Ddraig was surprised by his words as he put up a smile on his big mouth.

[You sure do say wonderful things, Legendary Evil Dragon.]

Both of them continued to glare at each other while staying in the sky. They'd finished saying their names, which meant the only thing

left to do was—. Both of them charged at the same time and collided with each other in the sky of the Kuoh town replica. Ddraig and Crom Cruach — headbutted each other!

—BOOM!

The shockwave was so strong that it even reverberated through the skies and even reached the houses below them. The roofs and the window panes of the buildings were blown off and destroyed as they head-butted each other.

[Here I go, Evil Dragon!]

“Sure, come, Heavenly Dragon!”

Their bout developed from headbutt into a vigorous exchange of fists without losing any momentum. Even though Ddraig punched him with his fist which was as big as Crom Cruach’s human body — the Legendary Evil Dragon was unscathed. He didn’t falter, retreat or even get blown away as he fought on, completely fine. Crom Cruach didn’t even shudder upon taking the punch of the strongest Heavenly Dragon. He was simply enjoying it as he smiled in thrill horrifyingly and punched back. Following the punch of the humanoid Evil Dragon that got onto the giant Dragon Ddraig’s face, a pleasant sound along with a powerful shock took place.

Right cheeks, left cheeks, nose, mouth, eyes, forehead, jaws, both of them threw out terrifying punches to those parts of each other’s faces! [Boost]—The ability of the Longinus [Boosted Gear]. Ddraig, who was the origin of that ability, used that every time he threw out a punch. The Heavenly Dragon was really moved by the sight of Crom Cruach, who was unshaken and just punched back even after taking his punch endowed with that ability. Considering his broken left arm due to his previous fight against Fafnir, the punches he threw out were as if he was unscathed. The multiple violent shockwaves

created by the rush of plain punches thrown by the two Legendary Dragons made the sky tremble and destroyed the buildings on the ground.

[Hahahahahahaha!]

Ddraig laughed in the middle of their bout.

“Heh, you’re enjoying it! But of course, this is fun after all!”

Crom Cruach also felt happy as he quivered in response to the straight punch that he took head-on. Both of them started to gush out blood from their nose and mouth. Ddraig then grinned upon flashing back to his golden time before being sealed into a Sacred Gear. At that time, in that distant past, it was true that the Evil Dragon before him was a strong one, but he was still weaker than him. However, during the time Ddraig was sealed, Crom Cruach blended into the human world as he observed them and changed, strengthened, and developed himself. As a result—. Ddraig grabbed Crom Cruach’s body with his giant hand and planned to throw him down—.

“Hmph.”

Crom Cruach put up his strength in an instant and pried open Ddraig’s fist. Even Ddraig was astonished by his ridiculous strength . This Legendary Evil Dragon had obtained the strength that enabled him to surpass himself! Ddraig then tried to do a headbutt once again! However, Crom Cruach evaded Ddraig’s headbutt and kicked Ddraig’s gut.

Boom, Whack!

The kick of the Evil Dragon pierced deeply into Ddraig’s gut. Ddraig’s face showed that he was in agony as he curved his body due to the impact. Crom Cruach followed by flying up and headbutted Ddraig in

his jaw. Following that, Ddraig's head moved upwards as he almost lost his consciousness.

This is bad—. If I lose my consciousness now, it's going to go like Crom Cruach intended!

Ddraig, whose body was trembling as a result of the concussion, clenched his teeth and to regain his consciousness. Ddraig then clenched his fist one more time and punched Crom Cruach. The Evil Dragon made a cross out of his arms and tried to guard against it—However, upon the moment of impact, the shockwave didn't harm his hands, but the very core of his body instead.

"Gaha!"

Crom Cruach spouted blood and breathed heavily because of the brutal attack.Upon the moment of impact, Ddraig had used the [Penetrate] ability. It was one of the special techniques of the Red Dragon Emperor Ddraig. He transferred the shock from the opponent's hands so the damage went to the very core of his body instead. This technique would inflict a fatal injury to most of his opponents within the first attack. However, Ddraig had to keep his guard up as his opponent at the moment was a supernatural being which suffered only a little amount of damage despite the fact that it hit.

I will release it at the best timing—when the enemy shows a slight opening as he's about to attack!

Crom Cruach hadn't forgotten about [Penetrate]. Rather, he attacked Ddraig and even felt a response. And that's exactly why [Penetrate] got in contrary to Crom's expectations. In a fight, feeling a response makes opponent drop his guard a bit. [Penetrate] was effective precisely because it came unexpected to the opponent. That's what Ddraig learned from his countless battles. Following his attack,

Ddraig inflated his stomach and charged the fire throughout his whole body. Ddraig then breathed out the flame towards Crom Cruach all at once! But of course, the Evil Dragon didn't just stand and let it happen. Crom Cruach quickly composed himself from the damage due to [Penetrate] and changed his right hand into that of a Dragon's whilst enshrouding it in a big amount of aura.

"I won't let you!"

He lively swept his arm which was enshrouded in aura sideways. The powerful flame that Ddraig breathed out was mowed down by Crom Cruach's gigantic arm. This time, it was Crom Cruach who inflated his stomach and tried to breathe flame. On the other hand, Ddraig also responded by trying to breathe fire one more time!

Gooooooooooooooo!

The hellfire-like flames that the [Red Dragon], one of the two Heavenly Dragons, and the Legendary Evil Dragon Crom Cruach breathed out were so powerful that they set the whole area ablaze. Their flames' power was equal—. No, Crom Cruach's was indeed more powerful as it slowly forced Ddraig's flame back!

—A fighting style that only uses one's own stamina, aura, and fire. With just those things, he is able to stand against me, the one who was called the Heavenly Dragon. Not only that, the strength of his fire is superior, and I even already used my [Boost] ability. The only thing I can say is, I am surprised.

Both Sacred Gear users, Hyoudou Issei and Vali Lucifer, had once fought against Crom Cruach in the past. He had fought against the Heavenly Dragons for several times. It's only natural that he had gotten stronger. Ddraig then thought, 'If that's the case' and then used his [Penetrate] ability and heightened its penetrating power, resulting in Ddraig's flames getting closer to Crom Cruach's body

whilst going through Crom Cruach's flames. However, it seemed like Crom Cruach had predicted this, for he quickly stopped his fire breath and tried to evade it. On the other hand, Ddraig continued to breathe out flames and chased the Evil Dragon with it. The flames that Crom Cruach evaded rained on the buildings on the ground and set them ablaze. The flames of the Heavenly Dragon melted the buildings and even the ground was greatly gouged—.

While Crom Cruach kept evading by flying over the sky with high-speed, he was in fact also looking for an opening as he had already prepared a mass of aura which he threw upon finding an opening. Ddraig evaded the concentrated mass of aura while still breathing out his flame, but as he did that, the aura bullet that he evaded went straight to the ground and made a big explosion. If that thing were to be fired to the ground several times, even this solid game field would be damaged greatly. The mass of aura that fell onto the ground created a giant crater. What was worse was thatit wasn't only just one, as the numbers of the craters created kept on increasing after that. What would come out first, either one of them getting defeated, the game field getting destroyed, or…the match between Rias Gremory and Hyoudou Issei being settled?

Ddraig closed his mouth and stopped breathing fire upon seeing that his attacks made little progress and only destroyed the game field. He rammed Crom from the front while using [Penetrate] and sent him to the ground. Ddraig chased after him soon after and tried to trample down Crom Cruach who was sent onto scorching ground vigorously. Crom Cruach got up by jumping to his feet and took a distance from Ddraig's feet. The sky-cutting diving kick of Ddraig. Without any delay, Crom Cruach then leaped off and landed a kick with a dense aura to Ddraig's right arm. Ddraig responded by taking a guarding stance, but—.

Crack…

Ddraig could feel a displeasing sound. Just now, his right arm must've been broken. However, he had no time to care about his arm! Ddraig also released a crimson aura bullet from his hand similar to the Dragon Shot that his partner Hyoudou Issei used. That being said, using aura bullets were normal to Ddraig during his lifetime. Crom Cruach deflected it with his right arm. As he did that, the deflected shot went up to the sky. Ddraig didn't mind that as he kept releasing aura bullets over and over, and while Crom Cruach tried to deflect all of them with both of his arms…as expected, due to the injury on his left arm, there were times when he lagged a little bit, resulting in the aura hitting his body. However, the Evil Dragon didn't flinch from being hit by the aura. In fact, Crom Cruach closed his distance with Ddraig whilst deflecting the aura bullets. Ddraig's deflected aura bullets flew all over the place, creating big explosions everywhere and changing the shape of the ground. For Ddraig they were mere aura bullets, but for the ground they were the embodiment of destruction. They were powerful enough to blow a bunch of High-class Devils away. Plus, Ddraig sometimes used the [Penetrate] ability on some of his bullets while continuously releasing the normal ones. He did it naturally so the enemy didn't know. And with that—. Boom—a bursting sound could be heard.

"Sh-!"

The Evil Dragon breathed heavily in response to the powerful attack. The aura bullet endowed with [Penetrate] successfully reached Crom Cruach. Mixing the ability to one of the aura bullets when he fired a bunch of normal aura bullets proved effective. However, the experienced ones would be able to tell the difference from the air, power and the opponent's bodily movement. That was how good of an observing ability the strong ones had. That's why Ddraig did it naturally as if he was throwing out his usual aura bullets. If one was an amateur, he would be seen through by a skilled opponent due to

exerting his strength, eye movement, shining of his pupils or a flow of an aura from his body when using the ability. His partner, Hyoudou Issei, had yet to master all of these, because he exerted his strength and leaked his aura quite a lot when mixing [Penetrate] in his aura barrage. Although small fries wouldn't be able to tell, it's a different story when it came to Crom Cruach and other supernatural beings. Mixing the [Penetrate] ability in one of the aura bullets released naturally, making it look like a normal aura bullet. However, for Ddraig it was a given. Crom Cruach had a hard time with the aura bullets that were mixed with [Penetrate], but…he was finally able to dodge one of them. That was not by coincidence, as he kept dodging another one, and another one of the aura bullets that were mixed with [Penetrate], despite the fact that there was no change in Ddraig's hand movements and aura. —Crom Cruach was able to dodge Ddraig's [Penetrate]-infused aura bullets. And finally, the number of dodged bullets were greater than the number of hits!

"….!"

Ddraig couldn't help being shocked. He was moved by Crom Cruach's ability to adapt and respond. There was a possibility of him knowing Ddraig's attack through instinct and adjusting his movements with it. But even if he asked Crom Cruach, it's not something that could be explained, as he would probably reply with 'my body just acted on its own'.

—The sense he had since birth.

I see, so he went up to the Heavenly Dragon level.

That's what Ddraig felt. In this case, even the genius Vali Lucifer wouldn't be able to defeat him, as this guy would keep improving his senses while fighting—. The Evil Dragon whose face was covered in blood then screamed happily.

“You’ve warmed up, Ddraig! How is it? I am fine even if you use your [Blazing Inferno of Scorching Flames]!”

That was Ddraig’s forbidden blaze capable of burning everything. Once it rained on one’s body, the flame wouldn’t be able to be extinguished as it would burn them into ashes. Ddraig himself also never used it unless it was really necessary since it would greatly damage other things that had nothing to do with him or his fights. The Heavenly Dragon then smiled and said,

[I don’t mind using it on a dumb fool that I hate! But that isn’t something to be used in a fair-and-square battle!]

Crom Cruach laughed upon hearing that.

“Hah! So you don’t hate me! I guess I’ll take it as a compliment!”

[Yeah, you are just a dumb fool!]

Crom Cruach then laughed from the bottom of his heart.

“Hahahahaha! I can’t deny that one!”

Crom Cruach laughed like a child. The Evil Dragon who usually didn’t show his emotions laughed like a child in a battlefield. Whilst doing that, Crom Cruach then instantly closed his distance and punched Ddraig’s face despite being rained by aura bullets! Several fangs that Ddraig took pride on were broken and he spit them out along with blood. Ddraig responded by moving his arm upwards and smashed it down on Crom Cruach’s head. Although the Evil Dragon was stuck on the ground, he stood firm and didn’t fall over. But it looked like Crom Cruach had also lost his fangs as he spat them along with blood to the ground. —Despite that, he was calm and even quivered in happiness. Crom Cruach then threw his black coat aside and said,

“Though I don’t want to destroy the field, we still need power in order to fight.”

If they didn’t care about their surroundings at all, they would be able to fight more freely. Plus, if they were truly serious in fighting someone and were to do it in the human world or the Underworld, there would be able to easily destroy the city. An enormous amount of aura being released from either of their hands or mouths would instantly turn a large area into ashes. However, it didn’t mean that both of them cannot fight without destroy the field, as the two of them were doing it right now.

[Well, we just have to enjoy this while trying not to destroy the field.]

As Ddraig breathed his flames out, Crom Cruach responded by charging through the flame and attempted to tackle Ddraig. — Dragon, the strongest living being on earth. The two of these great monsters, who even amongst Dragons were near the top, found an equal enemy and continued their fierce fight—. From that point on, Ddraig and Crom Cruach continued their fight consisting of tackles, flames and auras—

[Gaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!]

“Haaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

It was when the two of them were about to punch each other.

<<The retirement of team [Rias Gremory]’s one Bishop and [King] has been confirmed! As such, this match—is won by team [Sekiryuutei of the Blazing Truth]!>>

The announcer's voice echoed throughout the field. It happened right before Crom Cruach and Ddraig's arms hit each other's face. The two of them then silently pulled their arms back. The report just now was to announce his partner, Hyoudou Issei's victory. Crom Cruach said.

"…We lost, huh?"

Crom Cruach took a deep breath.

"Regardless of whose team wins or loses, the fight against a Heavenly Dragon has to stop here, huh?"

He said so, while also referring to the battle against the team of White Dragon Emperor Vali Lucifer. The fact he's registered to a team and participated in the tournament meant that it didn't matter if he's still unharmed, as the match was completely concluded by the loss of one's [King]. Still, both Crom Cruach and Ddraig were severely injured. Even if they can still fight, they suffered quite the damage. Both of them had cracked and broken bones, as well as holes in their wings. It had also been a while since Ddraig had run out of breath. Although his overall body was in fierce pain, his heart was beaming. Crom Cruach's strength was not a joke. He was also one of the strongest among all participants in terms of raw power. After seeing the fight between the greatest Dragons, would the Gods and other lower beings participate in the next tournament? Crom Cruach then picked up his coat and asked.

"That is not mature yet, is it?"

The Evil Dragon looked towards the place where the fight between his partner—Hyoudou Issei and Rias Gremory took place. That was referring to Hyoudou Issei. Crom Cruach continued.

“That kid is a miracle caused by the combination between Ophis’s and Great Red’s power, a miraculous creature. However, it seems like only Ophis’s power has manifested.”

[And do you still want to fight against that miraculous creature?]

The Evil Dragon smiled boldly in response to Ddraig’s question.

“Yes, I want to fight him. — However, I also have a feeling of wanting to watch over him, which must be an effect from you guys.”

Ddraig swayed his head.

[No, other strong people are also consciously or unconsciously aroused by partner.]

Starting from Azazel, Ajuka Beelzebub, First-generation Sun Wukong and even Sakra—. Those strong people wanted to watch over Hyoudou Issei’s being and growth with great interest. Upon hearing that, Crom Cruach said,

“If I were to take him on, I’d do it after he awakens the thing that is still hidden within him. Help him awaken Great Red’s power.”

As he said that, Crom Cruach left that place.

Ddraig asked.

[What are you going to do after this?]

Crom Cruach then said without looking back.

“I am indebted to Tannin, the Princess of Gremory, and Fafnir’s master. I’ll show up if there’s anything.”

Upon hearing that, Ddraig thought carefully.

—Partner's women look like they have something that attract other strong people like himself. Plus, Ddraig also thought pleasantly, for the strongest Evil Dragon to be indebted to several people.

Life.0

“Ise-kun, ish it owkay if you spoil me a bit before we go to Kyoto…?”

On a certain night before our trip to Kyoto’s other side and before the premiere of the [Chichiryuutei Oppai Dragon] show in Kyoto’s Youkai World I was lying on my giant bed and—what a thing happened! Rossweisse-san with her clothes in disarray suddenly got close to me! Her unbuttoned shirt showed her big breasts as they swayed before my eyes! While I would usually gulp and become aroused, Rossweisse-san on the other hand was…

“Isheee-kuuunn! I’ll beeeee loonely shif we getsh separatedddd!!”

She was really drunk as she latched onto me! Despite her boobs’ extra soft sensation all over my face, I could also smell the liquor coming from her…! It seemed like during one of her Devils’ Jobs, she received a brandy cake as a reward…and after she finished her job and got home, she took a bite, and had no memory of what happened after that. Rossweisse-san then smiled widely and said,

“It was a vheeery good cake!”

Judging from her drunken state…I think she continued to drink alcohol even after eating the brandy cake… The ‘get separated’ thing, Rossweisse-san was talking about was that, unlike last year, this time I was going to Kyoto for an event, while Rossweisse-san would be the guide for the current second-year students like Koneko-chan and the others. I said to Rossweisse-san.

“But we’ve discussed that we’ll meet at Kyoto, right? Rossweisse-san, you are my servant, and I’ve also said that we’ll be able to meet outside the field trip tour.”

“But it’s going to be lonely!”

She was laughing and crying while being drunk. She was one troublesome onee-san… Well, she's cute, so I don't mind. As I sighed, Rossweisse-san responded by kissing me! I was totally unprepared for it, and she completely went down with it as a result! I was happy, but the smell of the alcohol… Rossweisse-san was in a very good mood after she stopped kissing me.

"Ehehehehe, you dropped your guard."

Though she had become this bold due to her being drunk, I think she was quite cute this way too! Suddenly, Rossweisse-san started to undress, and even tried to remove her panties.

"This is normal. Now that we are engaged, let's do erotic things together!"

As she said that, she created a small magic circle on her hands and then cuffed both my legs and arms! Uwaaah, I was completely restrained on my bed! Following that, Rossweisse-san got closer and tried to embrace me. Her boobs then swayed sideways. Rossweisse-san was smiling like a perverted old man with her eyes having turned into the love symbol!

"Uhehe, you can't run anywhere now. It's okay even if this is your first time. I'll make you feel good soon~. Uhehe."

She's saying perverted old man lines now! Despite that, even Rossweisse-san herself was a virgin! Wow, drunk Rossweisse-san was both erotic and scary at the same time!

"Now, become the papa of our children!"

Rossweisse-san embraced me! N-No, I'll become a father! A couple of things then flashed across my mind. —Well, even though I had to say that I was grateful for the erotic things, the fact that both of us were reincarnated Devils could mean that we might not be able to

have kids soon. Plus, I already said to everyone who were engaged to me that “I’d have my first experience with everyone”, but I guess it didn’t matter anymore (as there were girls like her who didn’t care about the rules)!

As Rossweisse-san tried to quickly remove my clothes, I made a resolve and thought ‘If this is meant to be, then so be it!’! Suddenly, I could hear someone’s voice.

“I see…so this is the approach I must take in order to have a child with the Red Dragon Emperor-dono.”

I’d heard that charming voice before! Being restrained on the bed, I turned my head and looked towards where the voice was coming from! A golden-haired beauty with a white attire was sitting on top of the bed! There were also nine tails coming out of her bottom!

“Y-Y-Y-Y-Y-Yasaka-san!?”

I was surprised and called her name! She was Yasaka-san, the head of the Youkai clan of Kyoto, the nine-tailed fox, as well as Kunou’s mother! I didn’t expect her to come to my house! Or was this an illusion caused by Rossweisse-san’s magic!? You know, maybe the screws on her head were loosened a bit because she was drunk! However, Rossweisse-san herself also looked surprised although she was drunk. She then wiped her eyes and asked.

“Your venerable leader Kyuubi!? …Ah, maybe this is a hallucination. I might’ve drunk too much.”

Yes, you were right on the drunk too much part. … However, this meant that Yasaka-san was not a hallucination and was really present in my house! Yasaka-san covered her mouth with her hand and let out an elegant laugh.

“Ohohoho. Kunou and Red Dragon Emperor-dono are coming to Kyoto after all. So I rushed here despite my age. I came using the transportation gate that Kunou also uses.”

Are you serious!? It’s true that there was a special room in the third-level basement of the Hyoudou Residence where a giant transportation circle was deployed… But I didn’t think that she’d come using that! W-Well, considering that it also was connected to the base of all Youkai of Kyoto, the Urakyoto1, it should be possible for her to come using that, but…I was surprised as Yasaka-san never came alone by herself! Yasaka-san then looked as if she was very interested in me, who was chained down to my bed.

“So these are the kinds of things the Red Dragon Emperor-dono likes…”

—! She thought that me being chained down was part of an erotic play! No, no! I am a normal person! … But I had to say I did want to try doing these kinds of things with not only Rossweisse-san, but also Akeno-san in the future. Still, I am a normal High School Student! Yasaka-san nodded her head and said to Rossweisse-san,

“Valkyrie Teacher-dono. Please don’t mind me and continue, as I’ll stay here and learn”

L-Learn! I would be watched by Kunou’s mama while doing the bondage play with Rossweisse-san! But well, erotic things sure were the best! My heart was pounding upon thinking how Rossweisse-san would approach me—.

“… I drank…too much… I… I…”

After mumbling with a mix of her dialect , Rossweisse-san then collapsed on the bed! She might have switched from her sexy mode to her sleep mode upon realizing that she drank too much and

thinking that she saw Yasaka-san's illusion. Yasaka-san then said upon looking at that scene.

"Wow. Seems like teacher-dono went to sleep."

Yasaka-san looked a bit disappointed. Although I was also a bit, no, quite disappointed, I didn't know what drunk Rossweisse-san would have done to me, so I think this was for the best. … That being said, I was still chained down though. As I sighed in relief— Yasaka-san tried to undress before my eyes!

"I don't have a choice. Red Dragon Emperor-dono's holy child making ceremony was left undone because of me. As the compensation, I will have to be your partner."

Her white skin came into view from under her clothing as her giant boobs came into sight! While Yasaka-san was getting closer to me, she said,

"—I'll have you share the Heavenly Dragon's child."

Gulp! I drank my own saliva! Yasaka-san's lips got closer to me…! It was at that time! Bam! —Suddenly, the door opened and the small fox princess—Kunou appeared! On top of that, Rias also followed behind her. Kunou was surprised and looked really mad upon witnessing the extraordinary sight of me, Yasaka-san and Rossweisse-san (who had passed out)!

"Mother! W-What is the meaning of this!?"

She jumped on the bed and climbde on Yasaka-san's back, who was on top of the bed. Yasaka-san then replied with a happy tone,

"Hohoho. I want to give Kunou a little sister or a little brother."

"Mother, you are too bold! Also, you're being rude to the people in this house!"

“I see, it’s exactly like Kunou said.”

Yasaka-san then comforted Kunou and looked at Rias. Rias’s expression showed that she was unsure of how to react and sighed.

“… Good evening, your venerable Leader Kyuubi. Why don’t we go downstairs and have tea ?”

Yasaka-san then fixed her clothing and came down from the bed in response to Rias’s words before turning towards me,

“Red Dragon Emperor-dono, legal wife-dono, I apologize for the actions that I did tonight. It has been several years since I had free time in my job. That’s why I came here. Hohoho, I am still young.”

Kunou added,

“That’s right! Mother is still young!”

Yasaka-san continued on while patting Kunou’s head.

“I can’t say for Kunou though. Now, I guess I’ll have a cup of tea with the legal wife-dono and go back to Kyoto”

As she said that, Yasaka-san left my room along with Kunou. After that, I said to Rias, who was guiding Yasaka-san.

“R-Rias… can’t you do something about these shackles?”

Rias then smiled wryly and said,

“Geez, deal with something like this yourself. Probably because Rossweisse was drunk, the spell by which those were made is quite rough, you know?. Also, you are a [King], right?”

That’s right! It’s exactly like what she said! It’s only natural that I undo these things because I was Rossweisse-san’s [King]! On the other hand, Rossweisse-san herself was—

“…zzz… Ise-kun…you’re perverted… Just see, I’ll make you a father…”

It seemed like she was flirting with me in her dreams … Did she have a wish to make me a father that bad…? As we approached the [Oppai Dragon] event in Kyoto, I experienced something that troubled, yet madep me happy at the same time in my bedroom. …Now, I wonder if we could spend our days in Kyoto peacefully this year?

Urakyoto= Reverse side of Kyoto, it’s indicating the Kyoto where the Youkai lives

Life.1 Yeah, Let's Go to Kyoto This Year Too

The day after Yasaka-san's sudden visit (She had left for Kyoto after enjoying a cup of tea with Rias and the other girls living in my house), We, the members of Occult Research Club had a meeting after school, to decide the programme we would be doing during the autumn event, the school festival, as it was the next event that came after the school trip. Vice-president Kiba, who was standing in front of the whiteboard, said to the members who were sitting on the sofa.

"—And with that, I would like to decide what we'll be doing during the school festival because the time is short."

Irina raised her hand and said,

"Why don't we re-do our last year's Occult Mansion? It was quite popular too."

Xenovia, the current head of Student Council, responded to this,

"However, doing the same thing for two years in a row feels boring."

Irina responded back to Xenovia's words

"The head of the Student Council sure is strict."

"Of course."

Xenovia then folded her arms and bowed her head. She had made time from her Student Council head schedule to show up at the ORC meeting. The [Occult Mansion] that Irina referred to was the programme we did during the school festival last year, using the whole old school building as the venue. It was a programmewhere all of the Occult Research Club members participated, consisting of a

cafe with girls wearing cute waitress attire, a haunted house with me, Kiba and Gasper cosplaying as the monsters, and a fortune-telling corner by Akeno-san and Koneko-chan. The programmethat the ORC did was so successful that the tickets were selling like hot cakes. I mean, we sold an absurd amount of them. That was the reason why Irina thought doing the same thing would be prominent.

Although Rias and Akeno-san had graduated and went to college, we were still quite popular as we were full of beauties, and we also had Kiba and Gasper, the handsome guys who were popular among the girls. Plus, we also had new members who were beauties like Le Fay, Bennia, Tosca-san, Kunou (spare member), as well as Ingvild. We also had more people than last year. However, like Xenovia said, doing the same thing for two years in a row felt boring. If Rias was still the president, she'd also say 'I don't want us doing the same thing for two years in a row'. I twisted my neck and said,

"If we want to surpass last year's programme with other things, the difficulty suddenly rises."

After that, we asked everyone's opinion with the conditions said just now, 'It shouldn't be the same as last year'. For example,

"What about a play?"

That was Gasper's opinion. But there's already the drama club, so it would overlap with them… Also, even though we had some people who already had experience performing at [Oppai Dragon] events, what kind of play would the ORC do…? Next was Koneko-chan's opinion.

"… How about cooking?"

"I'll help you with cooking."

said Tosca-san, who had her white hair braided.. There were also other clubs who would do cafes or food stalls. Plus, we already did a cafe last year. Although this was the regular thing, Asia then told her opinion.

“Then how about presenting a research theme/subject?”

I’m not sure about pictures demonstrating lifestyles of Devils, Angels or Youkai, but it’s a solid idea. However, it wouldn’t be as attractive as last year’s. Then came Le Fay’s opinion.

“Why don’t we make a movie with an occult theme?”

However, as there was also the movie-related club which must be doing a movie as well this year, it’d overlap again…

<<What about the popular Grim Reaper Cookies from the Netherworld?>>

The female Grim Reaper Bennia suggested… She’s the [Knight] of Sona Sitri-senpai’s peerage, the daughter of an Ultimate-class Grim Reaper Orcus, as well as a human – Grim Reaper hybrid. Even though I was really interested in Grim Reaper Cookies…it seemed like ingredients were dangerous. The fox girl, Kunou, then raised her hand.

“What about a haunted house with real Yokais? …Is it not good?”

As we toned down a bit, there came such an opinion. Yes, apart from Kunou, we all had many connections to supernatural beings, people with superpowers and monsters…. Despite that, dealing with them at the school festival of this place, which is a normal school on the outside, would be hard.

“…”

As for Ingvild, shebecame half-asleep in the middle of the meeting. Of course, she's still receiving treatment for her sleeping disease, but probably her drowsiness reached it's peak due to relaxed atmosphere of the meeting. Despite the whiteboard being full with various programmes, there was none on which we could decide on… That being said, we couldn't afford to ask the previous president's (The OG, Rias) opinion, as her charismatic words might consolidate everyone's opinions.Rather than that, with our current president Asia in the lead, we think that the programme of the present ORC should be decided on by everyone. On top of that, if we were to ask Rias questions about these issues, I am sure she would reply strictly with,

"Think about it yourself."

The time for club activities had almost come to an end, and we had not found an idea that was accepted by everyone. Kiba put on the cap of his pen and said.

"Seems like we won't come up with anything, doesn't it. Well, let's end it here then."

"Everyone, please think about the programmes until our next meeting."

As Asia said that to everyone, the club members replied with "Understood". After that, Kiba looked at Xenovia and said,

"I'll let everyone know that the Student Council will be nagging at us if we don't decide soon."

Xenovia nodded.

"That's right. I'll pecking at you without any mercy. But of course, I'm also thinking of an idea."

—As club activities had ended, I asked Ravel about my schedule after this.

“Well, before we start doing our Devil’s Job, — we have that first, huh.”

“That’s right. Rias-sama also seems like she will come.”

Ravel and I had somewhere to go before doing our Devil’s Job. Xenovia responded by saying,

“Are you talking about that?”

I nodded.

“—That’s right, it’s Ryuuteimaru.”

The place Rias, Ravel and I were going to visit was — one of the establishments in the Underworld owned by the Fallen Angels’ association [Grigori]. It was a dock where research about mobile weapons, as well as analysis on tanks and aircrafts that humans created was done in order to create their own aircrafts and special vehicles. And we went towards a certain deck in that place. The deck that we visited was originally a place where big aircrafts were carried in, which was why the place was quite spacious. The thing that was stored there was — my magical ship-like familiar—Ryuuteimaru, the Skíðblaðnir. Skíðblaðnir was an extraordinary magical ship created by the Ivaldi family of the Norse Mythology (they were also the ones who created Thor’s Mjolnir). It was something that I received from Surtr Second-san, the [Rook] of Rias’s brother, Maou Sirzechs Lucifer.

At first, the ship looked like a small plastic model, but it was also called a living ship, which got its name as the ship would grow using the master’s aura as a source. Plus, depending on its master’s aura, it could grow into various forms and could even evolve. When I was able to do Dragon Deification, it transformed into a giant ship that

could fit all of my team members easily. The shape also looked like a Dragon. However — there was another change that began in Ryuuteimaru. What stood before our eyes was a ship enveloped in a thin red membrane. My Ryuuteimaru was suddenly enveloped in a cocoon-like membrane. A lot of researchers were present near Ryuuteimaru as they were helping me identify the reason behind the change that occured to my magical ship. I discovered this when I was training with my team members for the upcoming tournament. We were discussing to see if we could use Ryuuteimaru in one of our strategies, and when I summoned it , it was already in this state which surprised everyone. After that, I quickly contacted the Grigori and asked them to analyse my Ryuuteimaru. And today, we were going to check its condition which was stored in this place. I looked upon Ryuuteimaru which was in its cocoon state. The size of it had shrunk down compared to the time when they took it in! It had shrunk so much compared to the time it was a giant ship!

"…It has shrunk down quite a bit."

That was what Ravel said. I was quite shocked as Ryuuteimaru had been steadily growing, and it suddenly shrunk down so much! While looking at Ryuuteimaru's cocoon state, Rias said,

"… But, looking through its cocoon state, the insides might also have changed as well."

Yeah, we could see the insides a little bit from the thin red membrane… And its shape had changed a lot. … Rather than a flying ship…

"Hello, everyone."

We were greeted by someone. As we turned our heads — the current governor of Grigori, Shemhazai-san, was standing there.

Shemhazai-san also took part in Ryuuteimaru's investigation. As I looked on, I asked Shemhazai-san,

"How is it?"

"Inside this cocoon-like thing it is surely changing the interior."

"…From a flying ship, what do you think is it trying to become??"

I directly asked Shemhaza-san.

"About that, it might be better if you ask the expert…the girl over there that insisted to be a part of the research team."

As Shemhaza-san looked towards the room, a beautiful girl with long and pale green-tinted blonde hair, Seekvaira Agares-san, appeared! She was the next head of the Agares family, as well as one of the promising young Devils, the [Rookies Four], along with Rias, Sona-senpai and Sairaorg-san! Seekvaira-san then smiled while glistering with her glasses.

"Good day, Rias-san, Hyoudou Issei-kun and Ravel Phoenix-san."

As we greeted each other, I asked Seekvaira-san,

"Seekvaira-san! So you joined the research team!"

"Yeah. I heard some interesting things, you see."

Following that, Seekvaira-san then started to walk.

"Anyway, please come here."

We then followed Seekvaira-san and went towards the side of Ryuuteimaru. Seekvaira-san then pointed her finger.

"I believe that you have already realized it from the thin cocoon, but thruster-like protrusions have appeared there, there, there, there

and on its back. I believe that they would pump out demonic power…aura and increase the speed."

Indeed, like Seekvaira-san said, we could see from the thin cocoon that thruster-like protrusions had appeared. Although there were also things that were used to pump out demonic powerattached on the various parts of the ship previously, the size of the thrusters was bigger this time…

"… What's happening? Or rather, the flying ship… is turning into something different from a ship…?"

Seekvaira-san then responded to me.

"I believe that the ship…has the ability to fly. However, it seems like it's becoming more of a flying unit instead of a ship."

"What is this guy trying to be?"

I had no choice but to mumble that. …A magical ship. The ship part, as well as the flying ship shape, were already changing… Also, the 'Ryuuteimaru' that I had written on the sail had disappeared along with the sail?

"Let's go to the second floor of the deck."

We followed Seekvaira-san who had started walking again.I somehow felt that Seekvaira-san was happy about this… Considering that she liked robots and mechanics, I guess it was inevitable as this was her specialty. Or rather, her hobby. Once we arrived at the second floor, Rias, Ravel and I looked at Ryuuteimaru in its cocoon state from the top. Seekvaira-san pointed with her fingers and started explaining to us.

"There are also cannons appearing on both sides. They must be able to release a big amount of aura."

Seekvaira-san took out her tablet and showed us the things that occured to Ryuuteimaru within its cocoon in 3D. As she tapped her tablet, the 3D model of Ryuuteimaru moved, showing the cannons which appeared on both sides of the ship clearly. Seekvaira-san then tapped on all parts of Ryuuteimaru on her tablet.

“There are passages that open and close on all parts of the body. I’ve also discussed this with the people from Grigori and concluded that they might be storing weapons.”

… Giant thrusters, cannons, and weapons on all over its body… Rias and Ravel said,

“It’s quite the offensive form.”

“… If it keeps growing this way, I guess it’ll be able to defend our base on it’s own.”

…It was full of weapons, huh. Ryuuteimaru, just what in the world are you thinking—? Seekvaira-san then pointed at a certain part. Following that, everyone then focused on that. There…was something like a hole. Seekvaira-san then zoomed in to that part and explained.

“There is a cave-like hole in the middle of it. Its size exactly fits for one person. The fact that this is your familiar means that this cavity is—”

It was at that moment, before Seekvaira-san could finish her words. There was a voice that interrupted Seekvaira-san’s lines.

“…Amazing.”

As we turned our heads, there was a gothic loli girl — Ophis standing there. Beside her was her other self, Lilith. Both of them were holding hands. We were bewildered by the sudden appearance of

the Dragon God sisters. I mean, that's because the two of them, who were always at the Hyoudou Residence, suddenly came to a Grigori establishment! It's only natural to be surprised!

"Ophis! Why are you here!?

Ophis replied,

"I felt my energy, Great Red's energy, and Ise's energy being mixed. That's why I came here."

There were something thin and long covering Ophis and Lilith's necks. The thing that was releasing a rainbow-colored light was — a snake-like Dragon with a long body.

"Hey, Ophis, is the thing on your neck an immature Spectre Dragon?"

That's right, we were asked by one of the former Dragon Kings, [Blaze Meteor Dragon] Tannin-ossan, to keep the egg of the uncommon Spectre Dragon until it hatched. The egg safely hatched into twin baby Dragons. …The babies were quite small compared to the egg's size. Also called the 'Rainbow Dragon', the scales of these Dragons shined in all seven colors. They were very beautiful Dragons even though they were still babies. It seemed like they were attached to Ophis, who had been looking after the egg until they were born. Ophis patted the body of the baby Dragon who curled around her neck.

"They say that they came to play because they've gotten a little bigger"

… I still think that they're quite small. Well, their fully grown form is said to be far bigger than this, so I believe they would start growing from now. Also, the Dragons sometimes put their tail in their mouth, forming the symbol of Ophis the Ouroboros—of the infinity. Was this because of Ophis? — Well, while being interested in the baby

Dragons are good, let's go back to the thing Ophis said just now. I asked Ophis.

"Hey, is it utilizing Ophis's…infinity and Great Red's flesh that became my body?"

"Ise's black armor, the strongest form. Now all you have to do is to get more experience and increase your own power and just by doing that you will be quite strong. But —, it will be a different story if you have the embodiment of the similar power outside of yourself —The power of Infinity and Dreams is going to be even stronger."

Ophis made her hand in the form of gun and directed it at Ryuuteimaru. — It was the same movement she did when I first met Ophis and Great Red. Ophis showed a small smile and said,

"— Great Red's power, it's the manifestation of that answer."

—.

…Great Red's power… The one that resides within me, it's answer, manifestation…?

"Hey, Ophis, do you mean—"

When I tried to ask Ophis that, Shemhazai-san came up to the deck and talked energetically.

"Ooh, Ophis, what a good chance. Is it okay if I ask your opinion? Something that represents the Book of Revelation-like thing that appeared on that side—"

Shemhazai-san researcher's heart was burning and started to talk so fast. It might be because he found Ophis in this kind of place. That part of Shemhazai-san was really rare. However, the higher-ups of the Grigori were mainly researchers. Even the previous Governor

Azazel-sensei liked these kinds of things, so it couldn't be helped if the current Governor Shemhazai-san was also the same. I said,

"If Azazel-sensei were here, we might be able to hear a more detailed explanation… However, the things that Ophis told us can be a good hint too."

"Yeah, you're right. Too bad that Azazel-sensei isn't present here. Also, has Beelzebub-sama been informed about this?"

Ravel replied and asked Seekvaira-san.

"Yeah. If he discovers something, I believe that Beelzebub-sama's personal expert, will let us know."

Although we still didn't completely understand Ryuuteimaru's condition, I guess we could rest easy if the Grigori and Beelzebub-sama were continuing with the investigation. After all, I didn't know anything about this. I looked towards Ophis who was bombarded by Shemhazai-san's questions. …Dragon God's black armor was the manifestation of Ophis's power of infinite. And then, the change that occured to Ryuuteimaru was Great Red's…

My body was once destroyed due to the poison of Samael, the strongest Dragon Slayer, the [Dragon Eater], when the Underworld was attacked during the [Demonic Beast Riot]. I was then able to regain my body after borrowing Ophis's power and a part of Great Red's flesh. As a result, my body became something unbelievable being constructed using the same thing as Great Red's body while having the power that I borrowed from Ophis residing within me.

[Apocalypse Dragon] Great Red, [Ouroboros Dragon] Ophis. The powers of those two Dragon Gods were flowing in my body. Beelzebub-sama had also told me previously that Great Red's power was still sleeping within my body. Once that was released—did that

mean I'd level up…? I looked at my own hands and thought about that.

Part 2

"Talking about Kyoto, the [Aoi] Japanese Restaurant is a must, right? The steamed sea bream is really good."

"Ara, but the chicken cooking of [Ooraku] Japanese Restaurant was also great. It's also a place that Serafall-sama recommended."

"I'll introduce you to an interesting place where the people of Urakyoto go to secretly!"

The night before their departure to Kyoto. The two Onee-san, Rias and Akeno-san, who had already finished packing, were talking about Kyoto along with Kunou in the living room. …Rias and Akeno-san had completely turned into travel-mode as they planned where and what to eat while looking at a travel magazine. Kunou was also excited as she was going to return home. Well, even though we'd be going for an [Oppai Dragon] event, it'd be somewhat like a trip that we hadn't had for a while. Especially for Rias, who really liked Kyoto. That being said, there were also times where she'd go to Kyoto for little events and whatnots. For example, this year's first shrine visit of the New Year and the graduation trip in spring. And for Rias to be this happy must mean that she really liked Kyoto. Well, actually, she liked all the tourist destination in Japan. However, being able to go with everyone might also be the reason why she was several times happier, as everyone was busy with their own things and we couldn't really go together with all the members… On the other hand, Koneko-chan was checking the school trip guidebook while sitting on the sofa in the living room.

"Koneko-chan, what's your first destination?"

"…It's Uji."

Oh, Uji, huh. So it means that, right?

“Are you looking for matcha sweets?”

Koneko-chan unexpectedly nodded in response to my question.

“Yes. I’ve talked with Ravel and plan to eat japanese matcha sweets while visiting the Mimuroji temple.”

Ravel planned to team up with Koneko-chan and go around Kyoto. Ravel, who was in her pajamas, had just finished taking a bath and said,

“We also plan to visit the must-see places like Kiyomizu-dera and Kinkakuji, but I think we’ll do it on our last day. Because, unexpectedly, we’ve seen the main places during events, festivals or long vacations.”

Indeed. We also went to Kyoto for our first shrine visit of the New Year and spring holiday too after all. We, the members of ORC, travelled to Kyoto pretty often. — Suddenly, Ravel’s expression changed as she started to look worried.

“…However, I am worried. While Ise-sama, Rias-sama and the others are doing the show on the event, is it okay for me, the manager, to be traveling when I’m not needed…”

That’s right, the four days and three nights school trip of Koneko-chan, Ravel, Ingvild, Gasper, Nakiri and the second-year students basically had the same schedule as our [Oppai Dragon] event. That being said, our schedules were not so tight, and the time for both the event and the school trip had been distinctly set, enabling us to take a rest as well as

go sightseeing at various places. That’s why Ravel, while managing our schedule, was also able to enjoy her trip. Koneko-chan also

planned to make her appearance as [Hellcat] on the [Oppai Dragon] show in Urakyoto while also enjoying her school trip in Kyoto.

Hearing Ravel's words, Rias said with a smile.

"It's fine, Ravel. You should also enjoy your trip. This is your only trip in high school, you know? The show's preparation is already completed and the show will go smoothly without any delays. Rest easy."

Akeno-san laughed as she went "Ufufu".

"Ravel-chan, don't hold back and please just enjoy your trip with Koneko-chan, Gasper-kun, Ingvild-chan and others. We also plan to enjoy Kyoto ourselves when we are free/during our free time."

I also added,

"That's right Ravel. This is your precious high school trip. Have fun with Koneko-chan and Gasper-kun. I also want to leave Ingvild, who hasn't gotten used to Japan, to you. Also, this is an order from your [King]."

Since Ingvild became a part of my peerage, she became a second-year student in Kuoh academy. However, she hadn't really gotten used to Japan, and because of that, I was really worried about her going to an unfamiliar place. That's why I wanted to entrust Ingvild to Ravel and Koneko-chan.

"Fufu. Oh, Ise-sama, I guess it can't be helped. I'll have to obey my [King]'s order. I won't be able to help you if you can't find your handkerchief or even check your schedule as I'll be travelling around Kyoto with Shirone, Ingvild-sama and the rest."

"Hey, I am not a child!"

Suddenly, Kunou jumped into the conversation.

“Leave Ise to me! Kyoto is like a garden to me!”

Ravel nodded pleasantly in response to the words of the one who was born and raised in Kyoto.

“Ufufu, I’ll leave him to you. Ise-sama, if there’s anything, please contact me ASAP.”

“Got it.”

I spoke to Ingvild, who was sitting in the corner of the room.

“Ingvild, enjoy your trip in Kyoto. You don’t need to worry about anything as long as you follow Ravel and Koneko-chan.”

Ingvild smiled in response to my words.

“Yes. I’m looking forward to Kyoto. Ravel-san, Koneko-san, I’ll be in your care.”

““Leave it to us.””

Ravel and Koneko-chan cheerfully responded in sync to Ingvild’s wish. —In the middle of our conversation, suddenly–

“What, are you serious!?”

We could hear Rossweisse-san’s surprised voice from the dining room. As I looked over that way —. Surprise! Roygun Belphegor-san appeared with a white gown and miniskirt! Her dazzlingly white legs peeked from between the slit of her mini skirt! She even wore glasses, making her look like a real female doctor! Rossweisse-san asked Rias.

“R-Rias-san, you knew that Roygun-san is going to be a temporary medical staff member in Kuoh academy, did you not!?

—! Even I was surprised by Rossweisse-san's question! What!? Roygun-san is going to be a part of our school's medical staff!? I mean, yeah, Kuoh academy was owned by the Gremory household, so if a Devil were to become a staff member, Rias should also know that. As expected, Rias seemed to know this as she answered Rossweisse-san.

"Yeah. It was a sudden decision. Well, it's a long story, you see. Although it's temporary, Roygun-san will be a part of our medical staff."

T-That's—-very nice! For Roygun-san, a beauty, to become a medical staff member in our school! I'm sure that those bastards at school would make a ruckus about this… I might even get myself injured on purpose to go to the school infirmary! Roygun-san then put her hand on my back with a bewitching expression as if knowing what's in my heart and said to me erotically.

"If there's anything, please come to my place. I'll look at everything. I can also heal a virginity, you know?"

Are you serious!? By all means, please cure meeeeee! By the way, was virginity a disease!? W-Well, let's not worry about the details.

"Ehem."

It was Rias's cough. Oh dear, a warning from my girlfriend. Rias then continued.

"By the way, I apologize for this sudden request just after you got hired, but you will be going as an infirmary staff member along with the students to Kyoto as well."

Ah, I see. She's going with the students to Kyoto, huh. Roygun-san smiled.

“I’m looking forward to Kyoto.”

Rias then added ‘Also’.

“Roygun-sama, don’t forget about your horns.”

That’s right, there were horns in Roygun-san’s head. She wouldn’t be able to show herself in front of the students with those things on.

“Oh yeah, that’s right.”

Roygun-san flicked her horns with her fingers and—the two horns on her head disappeared. With this, she now looked like a glamorous female doctor no matter how you looked at it.

Still, for Roygun-san to become an infirmary staff member in Kuoh academy…! In the second term of my third year, huh! Shit! I want to spend another year in there!

That’s what I thought. —Suddenly, from my back,

“We’ll visit Kinkakuji in Kyoto once again. Come with us, Lint! It’s a very beautiful place!”

“Got it, Xenovia-paisen!”

“Oh, Xenovia, you really like Kinkakuji, don’t you?”

“It shines gold after all.”

“I wonder if it’s fine for a pure-blooded Vampire to go sightseeing around the temples in Japan.”

The Church Trio, Xenovia, Irina and Asia, along with Lint-san and Elmenhilde-san— were fantasizing about Kinkakuji and Kyoto. After that, we talked about how we’d spend our time in Kyoto —.

—Thinking about it now, this might be our most peaceful time.

Part 3

Departure day—.

We, the people who'd attend the [Oppai Dragon] event (I, Rias, Asia, Akeno-san, Xenovia, irina, Kiba) and those who accompanied us (Elmenhilde, Lint-san), as well as Kunou, who'd be returning to her hometown, had gathered in Tokyo station. We went to Kyoto a day before those who went on the school trip (Koneko-chan, Ravel, Ingvild, Gasper, Nakiri, Millarca Vordenburg-san, as well as Nimura Ruruko-san of the Sitri peerage). Koneko-chan, Ravel, Rossweisse-san, Ingvild, Gasper, Nakiri and Roygun-san saw us off. Kuroka and Le Fay went to the Vali team, so they weren't there.

As we were going to meet with Ravel and the rest in Kyoto anyway, it would be good to go there together at the same day, but decided not to do so.

Everyone thought that riding a Shinkansen to Kyoto along with other students is a must. And I agree. After all, that's how a school trip starts.His Eminence Strada and Bova didn't come here today, as we had them stay in Kuoh town in order to protect it and Hyoudou household while we were gone. And with that, we, the people who'd be attending the event, used the Shinkansen from Tokyostation. By the way, this was Rias's suggestion. She believed that going to Kyoto with the Shinkansen was the best. Rias then spoke to the School trip group, Koneko-chan, Ravel, Ingvild, and Gasper.

"Well, we're off first. You guys enjoy your school trip to your heart's content."

"""""Okay!"""""

I said to Rossweisse-san, Nakiri and Roygun-san.

"Well then, contact us if there's anything, starting from tomorrow."

“Right.”

“Understood.”

“All right.”

The three of them nodded. I then whispered to Rossweisse-san’s ear.

(…Go easy on the alcohol.)

As I said that, Rosweisse-san’s face turned bright red in response.

“I-I know!”

There were last year’s incident, as well as yesterday’s incident. It would also be inconvenient if she drank too much and puke again… I also said to Ingvild,

“Enjoy your trip.”

“Yeah.”

Next was Nakiri.

“Well, I’ll go to Kyoto first.”

“Okay. …By the way, I am from the Nakiri household, so Kyoto is a familiar place to me…”

Nakiri smiled bitterly. Nakiri must’ve a deep bond to the old capital of Japan, being a part of the Five Principal Clans. Kyoto was Japan’s strongest power spot, as well as a vast magical town. I smiled a bit.

“Damn, I have too many friends who have connections to Kyoto.”

“Everyone with supernatural abilities, as well as monsters who live in Japan, have connections to Kyoto, you know?”

Nakiri continued.

“It’ll be great if nothing happens this time. I’ve heard about last year’s incident from you people and…the Five Principal Clans’ side.”

Well, last year was really troublesome. We were attacked by the Hero Faction, and Yasaka-san was also abducted. — Suddenly, I realized something from Nakiri’s words and asked.

“The Five Principal Clans are cooperating with us this year because of an emergency, right?”

Last year, during the Hero Faction’s assault, the people from the Five Principal Clans who were in Kyoto and its surroundings didn’t directly cooperate with us. Although it looked like they cooperated indirectly… Nakiri nodded.

“That’s right. Because of the [Khaos Brigade] going on a rampage and the Three Factions having just formed an alliance, the Five Principal Clans also thought carefully on what they were going to do from now on. Everyone and the Youkai side were also in the middle of forming an alliance. …Well, the retired people of the Five Principal Clans were stubborn and were against cooperating with that, which was quite troublesome…”

…Considering that they were families with traditional customs, I guess the fact that they couldn’t come up with a conclusion in response to the Hero Faction’s assault was true. I am sure that Akeno-san’s cousin, the current head of Himejima family, Suzaku-san was also having a hard time… Cao Cao and the others were also on our side now, so I think there’s no need to worry about that kind of thing. As we talked about those things—.

“Great. It seems like you guys haven’t departed yet.”

“It looks like we barely made it.”

The [Slash Dog] team that Ikuse-san led, as well as Cao Cao along with the rest from the [Hero Faction] team, gathered on the Shinkansen platform.

“Ikuse-san! Cao Cao too!”

I raised my voice! What a surprise! I was thinking about the Himejima family and the Hero Faction, and the implied people (Ikuse-san’s grandmother is a Himejima, so he’s the second cousin of Akeno-san) suddenly came! Ikuse-san and Cao Cao walked towards me. I asked,

“What is it, you two?”

Ikuse-san said,

“We’ll be acting as your escort this time. Plus, we also have some personal things to take care of in Kyoto. So, we’ll be going together with you”

Cao Cao answered.

“I was entrusted with Kyoto and — Urakyoto’s security.”

I see! So they’re our escort as well as Urakyoto’s protectors! Recently, there were some suspicious Unknown Devils from the alliance of the Rulers of Hell attacking us after all. There’s no guarantee that they wouldn’t appear in the event’s place at Urakyoto. Especially if people like the Goddess of Night Nyx came to attack us. If that happened, it’d create a lot of trouble for us. — Suddenly, Kunou’s eyes met Cao Cao’s.

“…”

Kunou had complicated expressions. …Last year, because of that incident, there was still an awkward atmosphere between them. Even though it seemed like Kunou heldd no strong hatred towards

him… However, it's inevitable that Cao Cao and the Hero Faction were hated as they did such things. As if grasping the situation, Cao Cao then said to me loudly so Kunou could hear.

"Also, I want to formally apologize to princess Yasaka and the princess over there."

—.

…I see, so he also got the chance to formally apologise. After all, being part of Mount Meru meant he couldn't even do a personal conduct such as apologising. Sakra or the First-gen Sun Wukong-jiisan must've considered his feelings. [I'll talk with the others, so quickly apologise to her] — or something like that. After such things happened at the platform—.

[Soon, the train going to Kyoto will be departing.]

The announcer's voice announcing the train's departure could be heard. Rias then said to the departing group.

"Let's go."

With this, this year too, our trip to Kyoto began—.

Life.2 Kyoto and the Reverse Side of Kyoto

“We’ve been waiting for you.”

As we arrived at Kyoto station, we were soon greeted by the people from Urakyoto. The people who greeted us were Onee-sans wearing suits! Although they didn’t show their ears as they were in their human form, they were actually spirit foxes. As such, we were then guided to an isolated area where a torii was built.

“Please go on. Yasaka-sama and the others are waiting for you.”

We passed the gate as instructed by the girls. As we did that—. The world around us completely changed at once. The scenery of Kyoto in the afternoon vanished and changed into a dim world. The buildings looked like the ones from the Edo period, and there were Youkais, peeking out from windows and doors while there were also some on the streets who looked at us . Onee-sans with a long neck and kimono, a giant monster raccoon dog, a one-legged paper umbrella, and many other Youkai residents that appeared in stories welcomed us—.

[Wooooooow! It’s Oppai Dragon!]

They welcomed us happily with cheers! All of the Youkai gathered around us with glittering eyes! Last year, they merely gazed at us with curiosity, however we didn’t receive such a warm welcome

! On the other hand, Kunou was also welcomed enthusiastically.

“Welcome back, Princess!”

“Kunou-sama, you’ve grown. Have one hundred years passed?”

“Kunou-sama, a souvenir, a souvenir!”

Kunou smiled bitterly in response to the Youkais’ voices.

“Stop it, guys! We just met during the summer break..”

Kunou was happy to have a talk with the people in her hometown. Now, while we were surrounded by the mass of Youkai—.

“Hey, hey, calm down.”

A voice of someone controlling the crowd could be heard while clapping her hands. As we looked over that way—Yasaka-san appeared with her attendants! The Youkai turned into silence and created the passage for Yasaka-san’s appearance. Yasaka-san who stood before us then greeted us.

“I greatly apologise for my sudden visit yesterday. And also, once again, welcome to the Urakyoto”

I was really surprised by her sudden appearance yesterday, but…as expected, the scenery of Urakyoto did match Yasaka-san very well. Kunou jumped into Yasaka-san’s breasts.

“I’m home… Well, we just met not long ago though… Still, Kunou is home!”

“Umu, umu, welcome back, my beloved daughter. That being said, we still meet from time to time though.”

A moving reunion between parent and child… Or not, I guess. These two already met not long ago. Plus, Kunou also came back during the summer holiday. Yasaka-san then looked at each one of us.

“Well then, everyone, please come with me.”

Yasaka-san along with her attendants with fox ears started walking. We followed Yasaka-san and the others while also waving our hands to the crowd. Urakyoto — the world with a dim sky. That’s right, once we passed the buildings, we crossed a certain small river and got into the woods… Wow, this was nostalgic. Exactly one year ago,

we also walked the same path as this one. Once we got through the woods, we could see a giant red Torii before us. Behind the Torii, there was a giant traditional mansion, which must be the place where Kunou and Yasaka-san — the leader of Urakyoto, Leader Kyuubi, lived. Yasaka-san said to us upon passing the gate.

“Actually, there are already some visitors who are waiting for you.”

Visitors? Upon hearing that, I remembered the things that happened one year ago. At that time, Serafall Leviathan-sama came to Kyoto and was here before us due to the alliance matter. I think Azazel-sensei also came before us. The people waiting for us in the mansion were —a person with an elegant Kimono who looked like Akeno-san, as well as a small old man who looked like a monkey wearing a vestment as well as cyber sunglasses. The beautiful girl was Akeno-san’s cousin, the current head of the Himejima household — Himejima Suzaku-san, while the small old monkey wearing a vestment was the Victorious Fighting Buddha, First-gen Sun Wukong-jiisan! Well, once again, this was a surprising pair… First-gen Sun Wukong-jiisan then let out tobacco smoke from his smoking pipe.

“It has been a year since meeting you guys at the Imperial Capital, Kyoto.”

The other visitor, Himejima Suzaku-san, even though we were acquainted greeted us politely.

“Hello everyone. I’ve been waiting for you.”

Akeno-san took a step and smiled.

“I didn’t expect Suzaku-neesama to be here.”

Suzaku smiled wryly in response.

“Ufufu, well, there are some things, you see.”

Yasaka-san then stood along with those two and explained to us

“Suzaku-dono came here as a representative of the Five Principal Clans. The Victorious Fighting Buddha-dono…came here as he wants to tell us something.”

…The First-gen Sun Wukong was smiling like usual, but…I felt like his smile actually meant something else. And with such members, we were about to have a meeting in our first day in Kyoto — -the Urakyoto.

The people who gathered in the reception hall inside the mansion were Rias, me, Akeno-san along with Yasaka-san, Kunou and the head of Tengu, as well as Himejima Suzaku-san and First-gen Sun Wukong-jiisan, and last but not least, leader of [Slash Dog] team, Ikuse Tobio-san

. The people who weren’t present here were resting in the guest rooms prepared. Our accommodation during the [Oppai Dragon] event in Kyoto/Urakyoto was this mansion, which was kindly provided by Yasaka-san. This place would also be our base during emergency times. Being the mansion of the leader Kyuubi, the mansion was equipped with strong barriers. Now, on to the meeting—. …Cao Cao didn’t show up to this meeting as he was already watching the mansion’s surroundings. It seemed like he’s going to apologise after this, so...it seemed that right now they were still on bad terms. After the greetings, everyone started to report to each other. First, it was Himejima Suzaku-san—from the Five Principle Clans.

“Regarding the Gremory’s show in Urakyoto, we, the Five Principal Clans of Nakiri, Himejima, Kushihashi, Shinra and Doumon, hereby declare our full support. …That being said, we basically can’t do anything, however we won’t interfere with your show.”

The Five Principal Clans — the group of supernatural ability users that had been protecting this country from the shadows since a long time ago obviously had some influence in the former capital. It seemed like their representative promised us their support and that they wouldn't interfere with the [Oppai Dragon] show. Suzaku-san looked puzzled.

"… I am sorry that it sounded like some orders from higher-ups …It's more of a tradition…For the time being, there are still noisy people who were telling me "Go tell them this".

Suzaku-san continued as everyone laughed upon hearing Suzaku-san's friendly words. "However, the support is real. We, from the families will provide guards to Kyoto and Urakyoto. Well, that's all we can manage though."

Yasaka-san then said.

"What are you saying. I couldn't even dare to imagine about receiving such a proposal from Five Principal Clans. They really were changed by the current heads. — Understood, we'll happily accept the Five Principal Clans' assistance."

Kunou added.

"I heard that the special ability users from the Five Principal Clans often used to fight against the people from Urakyoto."

"Kunou."

Yasaka-san unconsciously raised her voice in response to Kunou's unnecessary words. Kunou jolted upon receiving the warning. On the other hand, Suzaku-san, who was the target of those words, let out a small laugh. I asked Suzaku-san.

“Did the Five Principal Clans move during the Hero Faction’s assault?”

Suzaku-san nodded

“Yeah…they did in the real world… The Kyoto where humans live. We protected the town in our own ways so that ordinary humans there wouldn’t get hurt …As a result, we couldn’t offer back-up during the situation happening over here(Urakyoto) though. That’s why we persuaded the retired ones/elders to offer full-scale cooperation this time.”

First-gen Sun Wukong-jiisan replied pleasantly upon hearing that.

“But this time, I heard that those geezers and hags were forced to yield.”

Suzaku-san then coughed ‘Ehem’.

“We just persevered in telling them to leave things to the younger ones.”

…W-Well, they were a bunch of traditional households, so they’ve been through a lot… After receiving the support from the Five Principal Clans, Rias asked Sun Wukong-jiisan.

“So, what’s your report, First-gen-sama?”

Everyone then turned their attention to First-gen Sun Wukong-jiisan along with those words.

“Fumu. So, it seems like there are weird magic spells being put on the temples in Kyoto and its surroundings.”

“Weird magic spells…in temples?”

First-gen-jiisan replied to Rias’s puzzled question

“The spells weren’t put at random temples either, as only temples that worship King Enma have been affected by the spells. The spells are currently being investigated, but one thing that’s clear is that they were placed in order to make King Enma mad.”

Ikuse-san responded to this.

“King Enma didn’t join the Rulers of Hell alliance that Hades created after all. So I guess Hades or the others must have some kind of plan.”

I spoke my opinion.

“…They’re sly.”

For them to make a ruckus on the temples just because he rejected the alliance. Sun Wukong-jiisan laughed boldly in response to my words.

“Kakaka! What are you talking about, Gods are, unexpectedly, beings who get jealous easily, and are also the kind that never forgets their grudges, you know?. Especially the Olympian Gods, who tend to be lively, irrational and dogmatic.”

Rias seemed to be hooked up on something from First-gen’s words.

“… If they’re from the Olympus, then the magic system is…”

First-gen-jiisan nodded as if knowing what Rias was thinking.

“Yeah, that’s right. It’s old Olympus magic. Well, I’m sure this is one of their primordial Gods’ doing.”

Rias put her hand on her chin and let out a sigh. I also covered my face with my hands. …Primordial Gods, huh. We just fought against the Goddess of Night, Nyx, during Ingvild’s incident. And now, we were going to fight another God-class being again. …W-Well, there

were also some God-class beings in the tournament though… Ddraig, who was inside me, said.

[I believe I've said this before, but this means that you and your friends have levelled up to the point where Gods pick up fights with you. During the time with Loki it might've been an accident, but this time they even came to the same place.]

…Truth be told, my comrades and I were only trying to protect ourselves. Damn, living peacefully was really hard for us. Ikuse-san said,

"King Enma, who's part of both Hinduism and Buddhism, isn't a being of Japan only. Despite that, they chose Japan's Kyoto and its surrounding area on purpose to make him mad. Because [DxD]…the alliance of Three Great Powers was made in this country—"

Ikuse-san narrowed his eyes and continued.

"It really seems like they're actually trying to make us mad as well."

[…]

Everyone's faces turned serious upon hearing Ikuse-san's words. Yasaka-san, whose face turned uneasy, patted Kunou's head and said,

"I believe that this place (Urakyoto) isn't an easy one to be infiltrated, but it's a different story if the enemy is a God. I'll order the security guard to raise the security level."

I've heard that Urakyoto wouldn't be invaded unless in extreme circumstances. But to think that the enemy was a God-class being… Taking into account the fact that they would be able to break the whole barrier if they did come and attack, even Urakyoto would be… Ikuse-san said,

“Because of that, our team, the special ability users of Five Principal Clans, the Victorious Fighting Buddha team and Cao Cao’s team will act as security.”

Akeno-san said with a worried expression.

“That’s quite the lineup.”

Ikuse-san answered.

“You see, the Rulers of Hell also have their bothersome underlings. Plus, Kyoto is an important town for this country in terms of its history, culture, economy and spirituality. Depending on the circumstances, even our current numbers might still not be enough.”

…Well, they had a bunch of High-class Devils prepared using Lilith, the mother of Devil after all… Even if they were individually weaker than us, their numbers were threatening and very hard to deal with. First-gen-jiisan laughed and said,

“Don’t worry, you guys here can enjoy your [Oppai Dragon] show. We’ll protect Kyoto while doing some sightseeing. This old man will kick the bad guys’ asses with his Ruyi Bang. You can rest easy, little girl.”

That’s what First-gen-jiisan said to Kunou.

“It is reassuring to hear such words from Sun Wukong-dono.”

Kunou responded to First-gen-jiisan’s words with a smile and those words. Yasaka-san then asked me, Rias and Akeno-san once again.

“The [Oppai Dragon] program is also being aired here in Urakyoto. It’s really liked by the children here. Everyone’s expecting this show.Despite this disquieting news, I hope you’ll do the best for the show.”

I threw my chest out and said this,

“Understood! I’ll work hard so everyone here can enjoy themselves! Plus, whoever it is that comes at us, my comrades and I will protect Kunou, Yasaka-san and all the other Youkai!”

Upon hearing that, Kunou—

“Umu. I’ll leave it —“

Yasaka-san suddenly interrupted and continued.

“In your care, huh.”

Kunou looked a bit unsatisfied as her words were stolen by Yasaka-san. Yasaka-san said,

“I’ll guide you to your venue later. It’s an open square that is used for festivals and the like here.”

According to what I’ve heard, the staff (people from the Gremory side) had already arrived at Urakyoto and finished preparing the stage, sound and special effects. — Now that the conversation had calmed down, First-gen-jiisan suddenly said “I guess it’s time” and looked over the Fusuma[1].

“Come in, now.”

As everyone followed First-gen-jiisan’s eyes and looked over the Fusuma—it was suddenly opened and showed all the Hero Faction members starting from Cao Cao, Georg, Jeanne and others waiting while sitting in zen position. First-gen-jiisan said.

“Your Venerable leader Kyuubi. These are the idiots who made a ruckus last year.”

First-gen-jiisan then said to Cao Cao.

“Go on, you have something to say, don’t you?”

Cao Cao who was scolded then kneeled down on the ground.

“…We really caused you so much trouble last year, and therefore we would like to apologise once again. Please accept our deepest apologies.”

Following Cao Cao who lowered his head, all of the core members also kneeled on the ground as Cao Cao did, showing their intention to apologise. It was a good time for them to apologise as the ones who had suffered the most damage, Yasaka-san, Kunou, the head of Tengu, as well as Suzaku-san from the Five Principal Clans and us that protected Kyoto were here …Being the same Indra’s—-Sakra’s vanguard as Cao Cao, First-gen-jiisan must’ve paid attention and provided the opportunity to apologise for them. In the past, Sakra also showed his intention to apologise in regard to the bad things that Cao Cao and the others did. However, they must‘ve wanted to apologise personally. The atmosphere turned somewhat heavy. I said to Yasaka-san and Suzaku-san.

“I don’t think he’ll be doing the same thing again. And even if he tries to pull up something weird, I’ll give him a beating. I believe that it’s safe to leave the mission of protecting Kyoto to them.”

I wanted to add more, but I held myself back. There were many of my comrades who used to be my enemies. As a matter of fact, Xenovia, one of the people whom I was engaged to, was my enemy during our first meeting. The same goes for Ophis, who was now living together with me despite the fact that she used to be the leader of [Khaos Brigade]. Using the examples above. I felt like saying [They are now my comrades, and the same goes for these guys! That’s why I’d like you to forgive them!]. However, they were the ones who would decide to forgive or not. If they felt [Because the Red Dragon Emperor asked us to forgive them, I guess we don’t have

a choice…], it'd become somewhat, you know…. That's why I held back on my thoughts on Cao Cao and the others. I looked at Rias and Akeno-san for a bit and they nodded as if saying 'That was a nice follow-up'. Yasaka-san responded to Cao Cao while patting Kunou's head.

"Understood. I will receive your apology."

"…"

After that, Cao Cao raised his head and looked really surprised in response to his apology being accepted so easily. The other Hero Faction core members also had a surprised expression.

"It's true that you caused a lot of trouble in Urakyoto and Kyoto. If your wish were to come true and the Red Dragon God Emperor did appear, what would happen next is unimaginable. However, I also know what you guys did after that…the fact that you guys fought alongside Red Dragon Emperor-dono and Victorious Fighting Buddha-dono against malice. Above all, we are comrades who fought together against Trihexa (666)."

It's true that when Trihexa came to Japan, we, the ORC members, Yasaka-san with the other Japanese Youkai, as well as the special ability users from the Five Principal Clans led by Suzaku-san gathered and dealt with it together. Suzaku-san dauntlessly said,

"If the one who was harmed the most, Yasaka-san, forgives you, then we'll also do the same. However, we'll monitor your movements here, as there are some who won't be satisfied unless we do so."

Yasaka-san nodded in response to this.

"Umu. Even though we've forgiven you, there are still some Youkai who cannot. You have to bear that in mind. And now that I've said it, I entrust the protection during the event to you."

Cao Cao bowed upon hearing that.

“Of course. We’ll protect this place with all our body and mind.”

Ooh! Yasaka-san and Suzaku-san had forgiven them! Ikuse-san, who was watching silently, also let out a small smile.Yasaka-san asked kunou.

“Kunou, what about you?”

Kunou said,

“Due to last year’s incident, I am still somewhat bitter towards the Hero Faction. However, I’ve seen them several times in the Hyoudou Residence, so it’s also too late to say no.”

Kunou got closer to Cao Cao and said this.

“I want you to protect Kyoto and Urakyoto with Ise and the others if anything happens.”

Upon hearing the small princess’ request, Cao Cao replied seriously.

“—Understood, princess. I promise that I’ll fight alongside Oppai Dragon and the others.”

“Umu! I’ll leave it in your care!!”

Yasaka-san teased Kunou, who said it energetically, with ‘Seems like you were able to get it out this time’

Everyone laughed in response. Nice, Cao Cao’s apology also ended safely. After that, we confirmed together with Cao Cao and the rest of his group on our movements until the D-day and finished the meeting. Following that, we rested for a bit at the mansion and headed to the venue of our event. Now, I wondered what the Primordial Gods were planning here (Kyoto).

Part 2

“Wow, this is beautiful. Look, Asia.”

“Wow, it’s a very nice folding fan.”

“All of the fans have a glamorous oriental side to them.”

“However, their prices are also quite high.”

Rias, Asia, Xenovia and Irina, who were in an old fan shop in Kyoto, were looking at Kyoto’s fans with excitement. Once the meeting in Urakyoto had ended, we saw the venue for our event and had some free time after that. I accompanied Rias and the others to Kyoto. It seemed like they had ordered something from the old souvenir shop, and today, we were here to get that. The members were me, Rias, Asia, Xenovia, Irina and Kiba, who acted as our bodyguard, as well as the one who held the shopping bags. …Well, I was also the same in terms of holding the shopping bags. Akeno-san on the other hand seemed to have somewhere to go with her cousin Himejima Suzaku-san, so she separated from us. The place that we visited was a traditional Japanese building with its first floor made into a shop. The owner, who had a businessman nature, then came out and talked to Rias.

“Wow–, Gremory-san really patronizes me a lot.”

This shop didn’t accept first-time customers. Rias had used various ways and became familiar with the shop. Rias had become a regular with a number of shops in Kyoto that didn’t accept first-timers. I heard that she ordered something from those shops matching it with our trip, and Kiba and I were assigned to accompany her. Asia and the others on the other hand were interested in what Rias bought so they went along as well. The thing that Rias had ordered was a fan that was inspired by a special flower that could only grow in the Underworld. Once the crimson fan was opened, you could see a

glamorous flower being drawn on its side. After checking the item, Rias admired it.

“As expected. Seems like mother will be very happy too”

Oh, so she planned to give it to her mum. Rias then turned to Asia and the others.

“Why don’t you guys buy one as well?”

Asia responded as if holding herself back upon being ushered by Rias.

“All of them are pretty, but… The price is a bit…”

Irina nodded her head.

“Taking our wage into consideration, we wouldn’t be able to do anything anymore if we buy this.”

Xenovia continued.

“It seems like we’ll have to hold back on our eating tour during the holiday.”

Under such circumstances, Rias looked at me.

I understood what Rias meant and thought “Ah, you’re right”, and then said to Asia, Xenovia and Irina.

“Go on, pick the one that you guys like. I’ll pay today.”

Xenovia and Irina became so happy that they almost jumped in response to my words. On the other hand, Asia held herself back modestly and asked.

“I-Is it really okay?”

I replied with a smile.

“It’s okay. Please let me at least do this much. I’ve received a credit card that I can use at crucial times from the Gremory’s side, as well as the OK from Ravel.”

I took out a red credit card from my wallet. Putting it simply, this was a [Harem Credit Card] that was created by Grayfia-san, who managed my finances, and the Gremory household who owned the brand [Oppai Dragon]. It was a card that could be used for my future brides’ sake. Of course, it was linked to my bank account in the Underworld (the one where the [Oppai Dragon] money got saved at). Though I wonder what category do presents for my fiancées fall in? Is it entertainment, or expenses? … I guess it’s better to ask the Gremory’s tax counsellor… W-Well, anyway, let’s buy the Church Trio some fans. —However, I guess I should by one for Rias as well.

“What about you Rias, is there something that you like?”

Rias shrugged.

“I’m fine this time. Just buy the ones for Asia and the others.”

…Was she just trying to make the atmosphere so that I could buy them as presents to Asia and the others? I suddenly remembered Ravel’s words

[As your legal wife—Rias-sama has to act as the leader of your more than ten fiancées—brides. You could also say that she must consider all the other girls’ feelings more than Ise-sama does. Plus, she also has to balance out her husband’s feelings towards each of the wives.]

Ravel emphasized that the legal wife had much more burden to shoulder than me, the husband himself. And my future legal wife, aka Rias, then advised me with a low voice.

(You don’t have to buy the other girls’ presents now.)

(Eh, really?)

(You see, for girls, the things given only to certain people like these are really precious. It serves as something like their special time with you, you know? You should buy the presents for the other girls when you spend time with them.)

I-I see… As expected of my girlfriend and my master. That's a handy advice. And with that, I bought the fans for Asia, Xenovia and Irina. Next to me was Kiba who also bought one for Tosca-san (she's staying at Kuoh town). While we were at that, we suddenly heard a familiar voice.

"Haha-ue! Ise and the others are here!"

"Umu. It's only natural that you'd pick this place."

As we turned back — Yasaka-san with her celebrity-like long one piece dress along with Kunou wearing a blouse (her top was sweatshirt) and skirt were there! They felt like a celebrity mom and child walking around Kyoto! Anyway, I was taken aback for a moment as this was my first time seeing Yasaka-san wearing western clothing. It was a different story for Kunou though, as I often saw her in clothes other than her Miko uniform in the Hyoudou Residence… Kunou said,

"I heard that Ise and the others are walking around the town, so we thought we'd also follow you guys!"

That's what Kunou said while puffing her chest with pride. Yasaka-san greeted the shop owner.

"Are you doing well?"

"Of course. Yasaka-sama also looks like usual."

It seemed like Yasaka-san and the shop owner were acquaintances. Kunou continued.

“Haha-ue has known some of the old shops since a long time ago.”

Really! So this was one of the shops that received the seal of approval from the Leader Kyuubi, huh… Rias asked Kunou.

“Kunou, are you also going shopping?”

“After hearing that Ise and Rias-dono are out on shopping, Haha-ue and I decided to also tag along.”

“—Or that’s how she wants to make it look like. She was being noisy and said that she wanted to go with Sekiryuutei-dono at the mansion, so I brought her here.”

Kunou’s face turned red at once upon Yasaka-san’s explanation.

“H-Haha-ue! I-It’s not like I…”

“It has been a while since I saw Kunou battering tatami with her hands and feet. It was quite funny.”

“H-HAHA-UE!”

Kunou screamed at her mom as her face turned super red. It was funny so we also laughed. Rias smiled and said.

“Well then, let’s go shopping with everyone.”

With this, we, along with Kunou and Yasaka-san, continued our shopping.

“As expected, the Matcha Café here is the best!”

Kunou scooped the matcha parfait with a spoon while looking delighted. After the fan shop, we continued to browse some old shops selling hairpins, combs and other Japanese goods. Once the

bought goods were delivered to the Hyoudou Residence using a transportation magic circle, we decided to visit a Matcha sweet specialty café to take a break.

“Sweets after shopping is the best.”

“Mhm.”

“Yeah, it’s so good.”

Xenovia, Irina and Asia also seemed to enjoy their matcha sweets.

I also had a matcha zenzai and hot matcha milk. Having a dairy products after accompanying the girls’ shopping was really the best. My body condition changed every time I had a power-up that’s triggered by breasts or its kind, and eating breast-based products somehow recovered me. My power returned to me just by eating my mom’s passed-down stew, Rias’s cream pasta, and Kiba’s cheesecake. Kiba then said as if he read my thoughts.

“I’ll try to make a Matcha cheesecake for you next time.”

It seemed like the cooking boy knew something about me. After we took a rest at the café, everyone left that place and—

“…Kunou, Yasaka-san.”

I gave Kunou and Yasaka-san each a long and flat parcel that was wrapped in paper. Kunou and Yasaka-san were dumbfounded. I continued.

“These are hairpins/kanzashi. I secretly bought them when we went to the store before. I chose this based on my taste, so I don’t know if you’ll like them or not…”

I said mildly. I mean, it's also the time where everyone's going out on shopping together, plus, I've also been in the care of Yasaka-san and Kunou. Kunou's face was brimming.

"T-Thank you!"

I'd be embarrassed if you were that happy even though you haven't checked the insides, you know! Yasaka-san on the other hand was—

"…."

She was totally dumbfounded as she didn't expect this outcome. Kunou also found it weird and peeked from below.

"H-Haha-ue, what's wrong?"

Yasaka-san came back to her senses in response to the daughter's question.

"N-Nothing! Nothing's wrong! Hohohohoho!"

Yasaka-san tried to cover it with her laugh, but — I felt like her cheeks turned red, or was it just my imagination. Rias said,

"Now, let's move to the other places."

After I finished giving my presents to Kunou and Yasaka-san, I ran for a little bit to Rias's side. Now that everyone's gathered, we continued to do some sightseeing to various places after shopping. Me and Rias were walking side-by-side.

Rias then suddenly let out a small, yet meaningful laugh.

"There's me, Akeno, Rossweisse, Roygun-sama and finally Yasaka-sama. Perhaps, you are the type that is liked by older women.."

"…Did you see?"

As I asked about when I gave Kunou and Yasaka-san a present, she nodded amusingly.

“I’ve also said it before, right? That I’ll always be watching you. It seems like you still don’t know your girlfriend well.”

Ah–. So she saw it… I covered my face with my hands. That being said, I really was only planning to give it to Kunou and Yasaka-san. It’s not like it had any hidden feelings or something… Rias then continued as if knowing what I was thinking.

“It’s a sign of gratitude, right?”

“Yeah. They’ve been taking care of us after all. Even this time.”

“Still, you handed those items creating a [special time]… So you really put the lecture I gave into practice so soon, huh.”

Yes, you’re right on point. From the bottom of my heart, I felt like I had no choice but to prostrate before her. …I’m no match for her… Rias then put his fingers on her chin and seemed to be thinking.

“…Is it because of my teaching that my boyfriend became a playboy? But it it’s too late to be thinking about that…”

It seemed like Rias was thinking about something….

Suddenly, Akeno-san appeared!

“Ara, ara, even Yasaka-sama and Kunou-chan are here.”

“Wow, Kyoto is full of sightseeing spots!”

“……Because of the power here, it gets rougher the more you walk during daytime.”

Lint-san and Elmenhilde-san were also there. Rias asked Akeno-san.

“It seems like your job is done”

Akeno-san then let out a sigh.

“…It’s good that I was able to step inside the mansion of the Himejima household, but the fact that I had to follow its traditions was…really tiring.”

I was happy that she was acknowledged as one of the Himejimas, but it seemed like it had its own challenges… Following traditions from now on must suck. After reuniting with Akeno-san, Elmenhilde and Lint-san, Rias said,

“Anyway, today is the sightseeing before the event. Let’s go to the next place, as we are able to finally go around my beloved Kyoto.”

My hand was pulled by Rias and we continued to go around the town along with Akeno-san, the Church Trio, Kiba, Kunou, Yasaka-san, Elmenhilde and Lint-san —.

After that, we had fun doing the sightseeing after shopping. We went around the town, while getting taught of the several back streets known only to a select few by Yasaka-san. We also went to Nishi Honganji[2] temple related to Kiba’s master — Okita Souji’s Shinsengumi[3]. My happiness was doubled just by being able to spend time with Rias and Akeno-san this year, because last year we couldn’t spend it together. Plus, there was also Yasaka-san! I somehow felt like the attack by the Hero Faction last year was now even. While we were doing sightseeing in Kinkakuji—,

“Lint, Elmenhilde, look! This is Kinkakuji!”

“Wow! The gold is shining! It’s so good!”

“As expected, the color gold is special in all countries, huh.”

Xenovia, Lint-san and Elmenhilde were excited once again. By the way, being a pure-blooded Vampire, Elmenhilde always seemed to

be scared whenever she was about to enter a temple. Rias and I found that really charming. It seemed like everyone was enjoying Kyoto in their own ways. However the sky grew dusky as if trying to tell us that the fun time is over.

“We’ll meet up here before dinner.”

[Understood]

Under Rias’s order, everyone was divided into two groups and did the last shopping. I went shopping along with Rias, Akeno-san, Kiba, Kunou and Yasaka-san, while the Church Trio, Lint-san and Elmenhilde-san temporarily separated from us. Kunou said,

“Hey, it’s about to get dark! There are many places where spirits would often gather because of that, you know!”

Yasaka-san then added to Kunou’s words.

“We shouldn’t disturb the Youkai. There’s also a feast already prepared for the visitors in the mansion at night.”

“I see! I’m looking forward to the feast!”

I found the sight of Yasaka-san and Kunou holding hands really cute.

I’m glad that we were able to save Yasaka-san last year.

It was when I had such thoughts.

—.

Suddenly, we could feel a pressure! We were being watched by someone!

As I turned my head — there was someone looking at us from the sidewalk on the opposite side of the shore. It was wearing a hood so I couldn’t see its face, but…we could tell from its aura filled with

hostility that it was not a human! Its frame was also quite big. The pressure was felt not only by me, but also Rias, Akeno-san, Kiba and Yasaka-san. Everyone then looked over the guy wearing a hood in the opposite shore.

"…Who are you? I feel like you're a threat."

Yasaka-san said that while keeping her guard up. The guy wearing a hood suddenly stepped from the sidewalk to the roadway! He didn't care that a car might be passing and continued to walk this way! He started to release an aura filled with the intention to fight from his body! Once he approached the opposite side of the road, a passing car was about to hit him—yet he simply reached out his hand and stopped the approaching car by force!

Boom! A crushing sound echoed throughout the area. The person with a hood was unscathed, while the car's front part — the bonnet was entirely crushed! That person didn't stop even after stopping the car by force as he continued to come to us! Shit! There were many people in this road, and the visitors in this place also looked at this way due to the ruckus just now!

—We can't let ordinary humans to be involved in the fights of monsters and supernatural beings! We shouldn't even let them see it in the first place, but there were already people taking pictures with their smartphones! Rias said to everyone with a grim look.

"We can't use our power yet. …There are many people."

Kiba who was our bodyguard also couldn't make his swords appear. Though originally, he couldn't afford to do it in this traffic… This also rendered me unable to summon my Boosted Gear, but… I had to do it if push came to shove. It's better than letting my comrades or ordinary humans get hurt. We prepared ourselves, and… I could also feel another pressure from our back all of a sudden! As I turned back

— someone who was also wearing a hood extended his hand while sitting inside a restaurant.

—There's another one!?

The new hooded guy didn't even consider the fact that there were other customers and just started to gather aura in his hands! This was bad!

"Everyone, behind you!"

Everyone realized the presence behind them thanks to my alert! The new hooded guy shot out a lump of aura! His attack was spontaneous and without any hesitation. The aura attack came to us whilst destroying the restaurant's tables and sofas! We couldn't afford to dodge it! If we did, the aura would hit the civilians instead!

"What is he doing!? Shit!"

I was frustrated at him! As the strong aura broke the restaurant's windows, I responded by quickly summoning my gauntlet and deflected it to the sky with a left hand uppercut! The deflected aura then exploded in the sky! The surrounding people started screaming in response to the explosive sounds and blast wave. Shit! I was forced to use my gauntlet! Although it might be seen by ordinary people, it's still better than having someone hurt! Oh yeah, what's the situation inside the restaurant!? Looking from the outside, it seemed that the interior was messed up due to the attack just now, but…luckily, no one died. The moment i sighed with relief, the big hooded guy kept getting closer from the destroyed car and stood before Rias and Akeno-san. As he did that, he suddenly tried to punch with his fist that's covered with a malicious aura! Upon realizing the danger, Rias and Akeno-san released the aura from their body while still being in the middle of the road!

"I won't let you!"

Kiba couldn't endure it anymore and supported the fight by — making the blade part of his swords appear from the below the ground in the sidewalk where the hooded guy was standing on. However, the hooded guy's punch easily broke the blades that Kiba created! Although it was an emergency stopgap, we didn't expect the swords that Kiba created to be destroyed easily!

"Geez!"

I leapt forward while applying aura to my kick and landed a hit to his face, but…the hooded guy seemed to be taking no damage despite the fact that he received it directly! —The moment my feet touched him, I somehow managed to grasp the power level of the hooded guy! He was at the very least an Ultimate-class Devil!

I fixed my stance and prepared to protect Kunou and Yasaka-san. Rias and Akeno-san also had to be protected as well, but Kunou and Yasaka-san were my current priority. If I were to protect Rias and Akeno-san first, they'd be mad at me instead. —Suddenly, a raindrop fell on my cheek, and was then followed by rain. There was a sudden downpour even though the sky was clear.

"Sunshower…?"

That was what Rias said. Everyone then looked at Yasaka-san. She was forming a seal with her hands whilst releasing Youki from her whole body. Yasaka-san explained.

"I've deployed a barrier that excluded ordinary humans."

Once I checked the surrounding—the ordinary humans in the area suddenly disappeared. The car which was destroyed just now had also vanished. It seemed like we were thrown into another dimension as there was not even a single human even though the scenery stayed the same. Kunou said,

“A Sunshower is also called [A Fox’s Wedding][4] after all. Above all, bewitching people is our forte.”

I see! So she sent us into another space with the same scenery by making rain with her supernatural ability, huh! So this might be what they call ‘being spirited away’! Yasaka-san said while still doing the seal with her hands.

“This is a space that I created in a rush. It won’t last long.”

Still, I was grateful as it lowered the chance of causing casualties to humans! And above all, it seemed like we were able to use our power and fight back with this. I tried to confirm with Yasaka-san by creating an [∞] symbol with my fingers. Can I use the power of Infinity here? Will the barrier last?—such were the questions. Yasaka-san seemed to grasp it quickly and shook her head sideways. …I see, so Dragon Deification’s power would destroy this space. It was a rushed one after all. While we were at that, the hooded guy (this one’s body was small and thin) that shot his aura at us from inside a store lined up next to the big hooded guy. Rias glared at those two and asked,

“…You guys, judging by your aura, are Devils, no?”

That’s right, like Rias said, the aura that these two hooded guys were releasing was that of a Devil’s. The two hooded guys laughed eerily and took their hoods off. The big one was a young man with black hair, while the small and thin one was a boy with dark grey hair. …Well, because they were devils, their age couldn’t be guessed from their appearance… By the way, I was familiar with their faces! Rias, Akeno-san and Kiba also seemed to be as well. Rias questioned,

“…You guys are a part of the team with Grim Reaper Zeno as the [King], right?”

Like Rias said, these guys were Devils who were a part of the team with the super long name, [Black Satan of Darkness Dragon King]! …That team had a number of shitty strong Devils along with two of a completely different level, a guy called Balberith and a girl called Verrine. I've seen these guys before. The big one was Gressil, and the small one was Sonneillon. I've seen their matches, and these guys' strength was also a cut above the rest. …W-Why are they here in Kyoto and attacking us…? While we were being surprised, they, on the other hand, showed a displeasing smile.

"What, it's just a little greeting."

He said such brazen words! The thin-framed Sonneillon also laughed spookily

"Now I want to defeat them badly. Badly."

Gressil continued while charging aura on his hands.

"The tournament has also ended. We've got nothing to do, you see. The meeting with the famous [Oppai Dragon]. Please let us defeat you as a commemoration before fighting King Enma!"

As he said that, Gressil then concentrated the aura on his hand and swept it towards me!

I instantly changed to my True Queen—my crimson armor and dodged Gressil's attack, and then countered him with a punch to his face! POW! —a pleasant sound vibrated. Although Gressil wasn't defeated, he was pushed back while leaving traces on the road by a force of the punch. The shockwave that Gressil's punch generated was felt even through my armor! Now, onto my turn—. Gressil, who took my punch on the cheek, had a blood dripping from the corner of his mouth while smiling in excitement. He spit the blood to the sidewalk and heightened his aura whilst making a euphoric face.

“Because we are Devils, we were told not to easily engage with all [DxD] leaders, especially the Two Heavenly Dragons, the Holy Spear user and Vasco Strada. Now I know why. You won’t be able to feel this punch just by watching the recording after all.”

As he finished saying that, Gressil then charged at me barbarically!

He isn’t that fast… but in this guy’s case!

I lightly dodged Gressil who charged at me. Gressil’s body then collided against one of the shops—and turned the two-storied buildings into debris! That’s right! This guy was the power type. I understood it after looking at the recording of the match. He’s the type that charges an unbelievable amount of aura into a single attack to break the enemy’s defence as if they’re made out of paper. That being said, I was the same as him and was used to fighting against people like Sairaorg-san, who took pride in their strength. However, the problem was— It was when I was thinking about Gressil.

“W-What should I do?”

Was what Kunou asked us.

Rias replied to Kunou.

“Kunou, stay beside your mother and protect her.and back her up with your spells!”

I also said to Kunou.

“Kunou. Please back up Yasaka-san! If this space were to be destroyed, the city will be in a mess. —You’ll fulfill the dream you weren’t able to do last year, right? To protect your mother, that is.”

Kunou then started to release her Kyuubi aura throughout her whole body and had a brave expression as I said that.

“Umu. I’ll protect Haha-ue!”

Yasaka-san smiled in response to her daughter’s reassuring words.

“Thank you, Kunou.”

“Leave it to me!”

Nice! I could see the strong bond between a mother and her daughter!

Right after seeing that, I started to engage in close-quarters combat with Gressil. His attacks were full of openings and I always used them to counter using aura-filled punches and kicks! Gressil was hit directly by all of them, but…while we were fighting his punches and kicks, as if dealing with my attacks, started to graze my armor slightly. The number of my clean hits also decreased. Finally, the moment my fist connected to his face, the enemy’s punch also went to my right chest! My crimson armor was destroyed and the shock went through my body. …! I could feel an excruciating pain all over my body…but it didn’t seem to be reaching my bones!

“Ise-kun!”

Akeno-san tried to help me by heightening her lightning aura and releasing it through her fingertips!

“Gu!”

The lightning hit Gressil directly and electrified his whole body. After taking my punch on his face and Akeno-san’s lightning, smoke was already arising from his body. Akeno-san’s lightning was also imbued with light that proved effective against Devils (due to her being a Fallen Angel). Even strong Devils wouldn’t come out unscathed upon taking Akeno-san’s lightning… However, looking at Gressil, he seemed to not have suffered that much damage at all… …This guy

was already used to lightning— Gressil smiled whilst having a nosebleed from the punch he received.

“It seems like the rumour that you can even take a Maou-class being in that form is true.”

“And you’re just trying to say that you’re Maou-class, huh?”

As I said that, Gressil wiped the blood on his nose with his finger and said,

“Well, I was said to be one in terms of talent when I was born.”

…Just like what this guy said, his growth during battles was strange. [Black Satan of Darkness Dragon King]… As the name is too long, let’s just make it the Grim Reaper’s team. This guy was one of the people whose growth was staggering among the Grim Reaper’s team. He would start to engage with the enemies by firing a large amount of aura by force. In the beginning, many of his attacks were dodged by the enemy. However, as the match progressed, he also adapted to his enemy’s movement whilst polishing his attacks against his enemy.

— A genius, huh. Though he might not be at the same level as Vali or Cao Cao, people like him could grow very fast during battles, so having a prolonged fight could actually be bad for us instead. Having a power-type who’s a genius at the same time was really troubling. Not to mention that this guy also had a bothersome ability… On top of that, Gressil wasn’t the only genius that we faced—. I took a glance at Rias, Kiba and Kunou. They were dealing with another Devil from the Grim Reaper’s team—Sonneillon. Kiba tried to swing his Holy Demonic Sword whilst getting closer to the thin-framed Sonnellon, but —. Right before it hit, Sonneilon enshrouded himself in a malicious aura and said with a small voice.

“Snap.”

Following that, Kiba seemed to have felt an unexplainable pressure and made the blade part of his Holy Demonic Sword appear from the ground, using it as a footing to take a distance from the enemy. Right after that, the sword that Kiba used as footing to change his direction was squashed by an unperceivable strong force, making it smaller and smaller. As a result, something was rolling on the ground, and it was — the Holy Demonic Sword that was squashed so much that it turned into a ball. Soneillon continued.

“Snap.”

—He said that again. Kiba backed away from that place at around the same time. The road that Kiba was at was crushed by a force from the top. Sonneillon continued saying “Snap, Snap, Snap”. Although Kiba managed to quickly get away, holes started to appear one after another due to the unperceivable force from the top.

“Snap.”

As Sonneillon’s eyes glowed mysteriously, Kiba must’ve felt something for he released the Holy Demonic sword on his hand and backed off. The sword that Kiba released was instantly crushed, changing into the shape of a ball. —That bastard, he was adapting to Kiba’s moves and targeted Kiba’s wrist! Sonneillon’s special Devil ability was — [Crushing]. Although it wasn’t made public, Rias and Ravel called it that for convenience. It’s an ability that enabled him to attack an object by applying an unperceivable strong force from a certain direction. Although there were other Devils who had the [Pressure] specialty, Rias and Ravel called this [Crushing] due to Sonneillon’s ability being too offensive and full of destructive power. …He was a bad match for people who punched and kicked from the front. It should be either people like Kiba, who’s a technique and speed type, or people who were capable of long-ranged attacks.

“…”

Due to Kiba's hand being targeted earlier, his aura gently turned dense. That must mean that he planned to fight seriously. The fact that Sonneillon could adapt to Kiba's moves just by fighting him a bit meant that his talent was also on a different level.

"Then how about this!"

Rias, who was shrouded in a crimson aura, condensed her destructive power into a sphere and fired it at Sonneillon.

"And Snap."

Sonneillon said the words that activated his special ability. While the sphere — wasn't crushed down, it changed its trajectory and hit a pole instead, erasing everything that was around that area. …But [Crushing] even the special ability of the Bael clan, Power of Destruction, is impossible?

Even [Crushing] was [Destroyed] to a cerain extent?.. If Rias were to fire something as strong as her ace move, [Extinguished Star] —.No, if, for argument's sake, it was to change it's trajectory just like now and fly towards us, things would get pretty ugly. …[Destruction] and [Crushing] had a bad compatibility against each other.

After Rias's attacks hit, Kiba then rushed from that place as soon as he created another Holy Demonic sword. Knowing that he couldn't follow Kiba with his eyes, Sonneillon quickly heightened his aura.

"And Snap, Snap, Snap!"

Following his continuous words, a large area of the road around Sonneillon was crushed by an ominous force. Speaking of which, I remembered seeing him using his specialty at a wide range like this in his tournament match recording! My guess was that he could actually deploy his ability at a wider-range if he wanted to. Still, I couldn't sense Kiba being crushed—. Sonneillon, upon sensing a

presence, looked up at the sky. However, as he did that, there was nothing but Kiba's afterimage left there.

"— From behind me!?"

As he said that, Kiba showed himself from his back and thrust his Holy Demonic Swords three times with an incredible speed! It was the special move of Kiba's master, the [Knight] of Sirzechs Lucifer-sama, Okita Souji-san — The Sandantzuki.

"Don."

Sonneillon muttered that. As he did that, Sonneillon's body was pushed by an unperceivable force, sending him flying to the side! That guy, he used a force powerful enough to send him flying on himself to get away from Kiba's thrusts! Nonetheless, Kiba quickly responded by withdrawing his attack and chased Sonneillon!

"Don!"

Sonneillon applied the unseenable force to Kiba's wrist, breaking his stance and pushing his Holy Demonic Sword off. Kiba didn't mind as he let go of that sword and quickly created another Holy Demonic Sword on his hand whilst chasing Sonneillon.

"Dodon! Don! Dodon!"

Sonneillon continued to target Kiba's wrist and Holy Demonic swords with his unseeable force as he said the words rhythmically. As a result of his swords continuously being targeted, he finally succeeded in getting closer to the enemy whilst having no sword. Kiba, who was right before Sonneillon's eyes while being empty handed, screamed.

"Sword!"

There were several Holy Demonic Swords appearing from below Sonneillon! Sonneillon also responded quickly and said,

“Be smashed with a snap!”

The Holy Demonic swords below him were curled up into balls, but —Only then he understood Kiba’s true motive and paid attention to the things that were happening right behind Kiba. A crackling sound that shook the whole atmosphere. From another space, the handle of the Demonic Emperor Sword — Gram could be seen showing itself. Gram then suddenly dove into Kiba’s hand as if responding to its master’s will. Kiba grabbed the handle and swung Gram, which was endowed with an overwhelming Demonic aura, sideways. —That should’ve been the case, but—

“Don!”

Sonneillon lowered his body and targeted Kiba’s feet which made his right feet lose its footing. Kiba, whose stance was broken, missed Sonneillon’s head by just a little bit. Gram which was swung released an ominous aura faraway, cutting several buildings in half! Gram! As unbelievably sharp as ever!

However—.

“…Urgh…”

Yasaka-san, who created this pseudo-space in a rush, let out a voice of agony whilst keeping the seal …Gram’s destructive power must’ve damaged this space. Kiba, who realized this, weakened Gram’s shockwave. This meant Kiba couldn’t go full strength in this place either. It also didn’t seem like Rias would be able to fire her [Extinguish Star], but Rias should also know this. Kiba fixed his stance and took a distance from Sonneillon. As he did, he boldly smiled upon looking at Sonneillon’s panicked face.

“Finally, you aimed for my feet.”

“…”

“You quickly responded to my movement and displayed a fine feat of intentionally aiming at my wrists. It’s incomprehensible that you wouldn’t aim for my feet, as you knew that my weapon is the speed of my feet. You could’ve hit me if you wanted, but you didn’t.”

“…Shut up.”

“Speaking of which, I remember seeing you having fun by teasing your opponents in your match recording without being serious. And that must be what you tried to do.”

“…You’re annoying.”

Kiba responded to Sonneillon, whose true feelings were read and he was becoming angry.

“So basically, you were looking down on me. That’s why you were nearly killed. It’s not only you who can adapt.”

“SHUT UP! YOU ARE ANNOYING!”

“No, you Right back at you.”

“I’LL KILL YOU!”

Sonneilon, who became mad due to Kiba, who seemingly did it on purpose, started to release a dangerous aura from his body, but…the aura’s rougher compared to before. …Sensing that his opponent had a childish temperament, Kiba must’ve made him mad on purpose so that his opponent couldn’t properly control his demonic power. In fact, the unseeable force that Sonneillon released became less exact and missed Kiba’s sword and hand. As the accuracy of his ability

decreased, he couldn't stop Kiba's speed even after he tried to aim at his feet.

"Shit! Shit! SHIIIIIIIIT!"

Sonneillon, whose ability kept missing its target, was getting angrier and angrier. On the other hand, Gressil, who was engaged in close-quarters combat with me, laughed at this.

"KAKAKA! That Sonneillon, even though he is usually calm, he is the shittiest kid even among us when things don't go as he planned!"

"Us? Are you referring to Balberith and Verrine in your team?"

"Yeah, that's right, we are children after all! Zeno-ossan always said that we had an amazing talent, but lacked too much experience!"

"So you attacked us to get more experience, is that it?"

"That's right! Even among all of the mythologies/powers, you guys are the true main force of DxD group, right? The strongest fighting group that made even God-class beings not being able to lay hands on you!"

"It's not like we are a group that specialises in fighting. We fight because there are dumbasses like you who keep causing others trouble!"

"That's why we challenge you! We want to find out just how far our talents can bring us!"

…

…While being engaged in CQC, I didn't know how to react… No, I was filled with anger …Geez, there were also people like him who challenged us into a fight right a year ago, weren't there, Cao Cao? I'll listen to these guys later. Now it's time for the next move!

[Blade!!]

[Blade 2!!]

Along with the voice from my jewel, the Double Ascalon that were stored in both gauntlets appeared. Gressil laughed upon seeing this.

“I know that! It’s the Holy Sword [Dragon Slayer]! The one that got imbued with large amount of the Red Dragon Emperor’s aura!”

I used it several times during the match, so it wouldn’t be weird for him to know by watching my match recordings. I started to slash Gressil using the Ascalons that showed up from my gauntlets. Yet, he nicely dodged my attack with his body movements whilst keeping his guard up. In the middle of dodging my attacks, Gressil said,

“Oh, you are able to release those from your gauntlet, right! Those toys don’t work on me now that I’ve known them! If you want to defeat me in that form, you have to try firing Crimson Blaster or whatever it is continuously!”

Gressil remembered my attacks from the recording and looked down upon my crimson armor. But that’s why I used this! I swung the Ascalon II in my right hand hard, but Gressil dodged it. As I revolved my body 180o on the ground due to the swing, Gressil must’ve found an opening after that large swing. With a proud look on his face, Gressil shouted—

“YOU’RE OPEN!”

He heightened the aura on his hand and tried to punch me. —Now!

[Tail Blade!!!!]

I lengthened the tail part of my armor and made a blade appear from its end. The blade that came out of the tail’s tip then approached Gressil with high speed!

“—!?”

Whilst the opponent was taken aback, the blade completely struck his shoulder. The tail blade was deeply engraved into Gressil’s left shoulder. After receiving that, Gressil’s offensive stance was broken for a moment and I focused my aura on my left hand.

[Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost!!]

A sound that meant increasing something reverberated from my armor’s jewel. I fired my aura’s bombardment—a giant Dragon Shot to him.

BOOOOOOOM!

Suddenly, a harsh blast and explosive sound could be heard.

“Arghhhhhhhhh!”

Gressil was sent flying and screamed. On the other hand, my Dragon Shot destroyed the road and scenery before me! The blade on my tail was a prototype model of Ascalon II. Although it didn’t have the same ability as II, it was still quite strong. I actually received this from the Vatican’s team that researched and created Holy Swords after the match with Rias previously.

[It’s a prototype model made for you, and others can’t properly use it.So why don’t you try it?]

Such was the suggestion and favour. After discussing with Ddraig, Rias and Ravel, we came up with the conclusion that it’d be great for surprising the enemy as well as a third arm, so it’s better to fuse it with my tail and we executed it. I twisted my tail and looked forward. The big man was standing with a half-hearted defensive stance,

smoke rising from him. His whole body seemed to have suffered damage, but…the biggest one was the shoulder which was struck by Ascalon.

I quickly took a glance at Yasaka-san. …I'd like to use my [Transfer] ability on Yasaka-san to raise her power up. I believe that it would help preserve this space. …Couldn't I find a chance to do that? While I was thinking that, Gressil walked towards me. He was smiling while being euphoric in his fight.

"The blade of the tail! That's the first time I've seen it. Is it something that you just developed? Damn, to think that I'd taste how the Red Dragon Emperor creates one new technique after another in person"

Gressil forced the wounds on his shoulder to close by contracting his muscles. Gressil smiled and said,

"—However, **my body has remembered** a part of it."

That's what Gressil said meaningfully. That guy started to run and charged at me barbarically! He planned to tackle me with his body that's endowed with offensive aura. I'll be out if I take that, and it would damage me even if it just scratched me. It was not crazy fast, but it was still quite fast considering the short distance! He's the same type as me! I tried to dodge right before he hit me, but he instantly changed his direction and chased me! —His instantaneous power were also crazy fast! I created a small aura bullet on my hand—and shot a number of mini Dragon Shots continuously! Gressil, who was charging at me, didn't even seem to try to deflect it, and instead just scattered them with the force of his tackle!

"My bad, but those kinds of bullets won't work anymore!"

Gressil said that while smiling. Well then, one more time!

I extended my tail which had Ascalon in it. As my tail extended grazing the road, I did an upper swing from a very low altitude! A hit on his stomach—or so it should've been, but the Ascalon on my tail couldn't thrust at Gressil's stomach and only managed to prick him with the tip! Gressil said with complacency,

"My body has also remembered that one! If it's not your attacks that exceed Maou-class beings, they won't work on me!"

Gressil prepared to headbutt me with the impetus from his tackle! I created a cross with my arms to defend myself. However, I was completely cornered as the enemy planned to break my defence as well—Just kidding. As if I let you! After understanding that he has confidence in his explosive power, I kept my defensive stance until the very last moment before his attack landed. I was looking for the timing when Gressil couldn't change his trajectory and then jumped to the side! I shot a Dragon Shot as I dodged him!

[Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost!!]

This was bigger than the previous bullets!

"Gu!"

Upon taking my Dragon Shot, Gressil was sent flying. However, Gressil tried to fix his stance as it only did a little damage. There, Akeno-san supported me by raining her lightning

"Lightning!"

Akeno-san fired her demonic power while endowing a large amount of lightning aura on her hands. Gressil, who didn't seem to try to dodge, took Akeno-san's lightning as a whole…Gressil's body was covered in sparks, yet he still had a smile on his face. Akeno-san's lightning didn't work on him. Gressil said,

“Lightning Onee-san, it’s too bad. **My body has remembered** your lightning. If you want to inflict damage upon me, you should either increase the output power or use another technique!”

Akeno-san narrowed her eyes upon looking at this.

“So that is your specialty.”

That’s right, Gressil’s specialty was [Resistance]. Once he took his opponent’s attack, a [Resistance] would be born against the attack. Akeno-san’s lightning—the reason why he wasn’t damaged by the light part was due to him already taking the lightning before, so his body had already created a [Resistance] against it. Plus, he must’ve also created a [Resistance] against the thunder due to the attack just now. It also seemed like his body had gotten used to my attacks — Dragon Shot and the Tail’s Ascalon.

The [Resistance] Specialty wasn’t only particular to Devils as there were other monsters and supernatural beings who had it as well. However, the one that Gressil was building up and applying to his body unusually fast. Plus, there was no restriction on the attriibutes as he could create a [Resistance] to all sorts of damage.

— That was the name that Rias, Ravel, Rossweisse-san and my other comrades gave it upon looking at the match recordings and analysing Gressil’s specialty …Although there were some differences to my comrades’ analysis, based on what I’ve seen with my eyes, they were more or less the same. I really didn’t understand how his [Resistance] worked, however, the fact that to a certain extent he got [Resistance] to my aura itself is undeniable. No, but one of the techniques of Ddraig who lived within me in [Boosted Gear], [Penetrate], seemed to be able to get through that [Resistance] ability. Ddraig, who was inside me, talked about this.

[Yeah, I'm sure your attacks will be able to ignore his [Resistance] if you endow them with [Penetrate]. …At first, that is.]

…Wait, wait, Ddraig. The way you put it made it sound as if he would be able to develop [Resistance] even against [Penetrate].

[It's not impossible. Conversely, it might be able to pierce his [Resistance] any number of times. But considering the speed of his growth, talent, and after judging from his match recordings and this actual fight, he's a genius. It would be too dreadful if he manages to build [Resistance] even to [Penetrate]. Instead of using [Penetrate] in this unstable space where you can't perform to your best, I believe it's better to change to your Dragon Deification form after fully preparing and finish him in one go by using the [Penetrate] of that form.]

…So, you're saying that we should change the place, huh.

[Fighting here for a long time isn't really good.]

—The longer we fought in this place, the more advantageous it would be for the opponent. …Shit, there were no other opponents whom I had to defeat in my first fight like him. An opponent I must defeat using Dragon Deification at our first time meeting. These guys became stronger along with the passing time. Gressil happily said,

"Geez, you're strong even in that crimson armor of yours. The Holy Demonic Sword-niichan over there is also strong. I guess you're what people call an experienced fighter."

"Despite saying that, it looks like you are still holding back, right??"

As I asked that, Gressil rotated his uninjured arm.

"Right now, we still have limits. However, if the limiter on me and Sonneillon were to be removed, we'd be able to easily destroy this

barrier and the city outside. That being said, it's a matter of permission from the higher-ups."

—Higher-ups?

So there were some people who treated them as their underlings, huh. Sonneillon screamed while being engaged in a fight against Rias and Kiba.

"Gressil! Let's remove our limiter! These guys! Are making me mad! They'll forgive us as long as we don't destroy the whole Kyoto! Kyoto will be fine if we just destroy a part of the city!"

That thin brat sure said some cruel things! Judging from the fight just now and the recording of their match, these guys really could destroy the whole town in an instant if they got serious! They must be able to turn the whole Kyoto into dust if they were to fight flashy! Gressil, who heard that, let out a sigh.

"Well, you have a point. It's only a matter of time after all."

Suddenly, Gressil's aura gradually became higher to the point where it shook this whole pseudo space! Sonneillon also followed him by starting to release a malicious aura from his body! Rias turned grim and said,

"…They plan to show us their true power that we saw in the tournament."

"Ku! It won't hold!"

Yasaka-san's youki began to get unstable as her hands that were forming a seal started to tremble. This space was also reaching its limit due to Sonneillon and Gressil who heightened their aura. The scenery was starting to get blurry and we began to see the original town. At this rate, Gressil and Sonneilon who became serious would

be released into the original world. If that happens, then the normal civilians would be…! The worst case scenario came up to my head! If that's the case, then it's better that I also become serious! After I prepared myself for the fact that I might be seen by normal civilians, I entered the preparation to speak my Dragon Deification chant.

It was at that moment. The space that was starting to go away was enveloped by mist. The blurry scenery then went back to normal, as if this space was reinforced by the mist. I was familiar with this mist! —At the same time, I could hear a voice.

"It seems like we made it in time."

The ones who appeared from the mist were—Cao Cao and the other Hero Faction core members! Next to Cao Cao was the mist user—the owner of Longinus [Dimension Lost], Georg, who activated his Sacred Gear to support Yasaka-san in holding this space. Damn! You came at the right time! Cao Cao tapped his Holy Spear on his shoulder and walked this way. Gressil glared at Cao Cao and his Holy Spear, and said,

"…Holy Spear, huh. It was one of the things we were warned to keep ourselves away from."

Cao Cao looked at Gressil and Sonneilon and said,

"Nice to meet you, I guess. Gressil and, over there is Sonneillon, right? My name is Cao Cao. The descendant of the famous Cao Cao from the Three Kingdoms — that's about it."

The swordswoman of the Hero Faction, Jeanne, held her sword in her hand as she took a step forward and said,

"I don't know what your goal is, but please don't do things that'll make us remember the things that we did last year."

Cao Cao warned Jeanne.

“…You’re saying unnecessary things.”

Cao Cao then pulled himself together and said to Gressil and Sonneillon

“We’re not the only backup. The others will come here soon. Do you guys have the guts to fight against half of the main forces of [DxD]?”

Gressil smiled in response to Cao Cao’s bold question… On the other hand, Sonneillon became even angrier under these circumstances, for he heightened his dangerous aura. Gressil then opened his mouth upon realizing Sonneillon’s intention to fight.

“I guess so. Even if we begin right here, it’s not like—“

It was at that time before he could finish. There were communication magic circles appearing on Gressil and Sonneillon’s ears. They seemed to be told something, and as that happened, Gressil and Soneillon started to look extremely unhappy, but…at the same time, they also regained their cool and started to lower their aura. The next moment, old magic circle patterns showed up below their feet.

“Well, we’ll meet again soon.”

“Soon, I’ll smash you with a Snap.”

After leaving those words, Gressil and Sonneillon were enveloped in transportation light. After the ominous and fierce two from the Grim Reaper’s team left, I, Rias, Akeno-san, Kiba, Yasaka-san and Kunou released our battle stance and sighed in relief. I undid my armor and thanked Cao Cao.

“You saved us there.”

Cao Cao replied while showing us his habit of tapping his Holy Spear.

“Well, that’s our mission. Anyway—“

Cao Cao looked at the direction where Gressil and Sonneillon disappeared.

“The transportation magic circle was an Olympus one, right?”

“Yeah. Plus, it’s an old one. —As expected, this must have something to do with Primordial Gods.”

Primordial Gods—.

The report of weird spells being placed around Kyoto. Those spells also seemed to be old ones, so Primordial Gods are involved. The fact that Gressil and Sonneillon were also transported using the magic circle of Primordial Gods meant there’s no doubt that they’re connected. The “Higher-ups” that Gressil mentioned must also be a Primordial God who’s a member of the Rulers of Hell alliance. Yasaka-san, who regained her breath, patted Kunou, who looked worried, and said,

“We have to make a plan in Urakyoto.”

We nodded in response to Yasaka-san’s words.

…It seemed like we couldn’t enjoy Kyoto at ease this year either. But well, all we had to do was simple. It’s like what we usually did.

—We just have to defeat those that try to put our surroundings in danger, no matter who it is!

Translator's Notes and References

1. Fusuma: vertical rectangular panels which can slide from side to side to redefine spaces within a room, or act as doors

2. Nishi Honganji : Nishi Honganji Temple is a large temple compound located north west of Kyoto Station with many beautiful buildings of historical and architectural significance. It is one of two head temples of the Jodo Shinshu sect of Buddhism in Kyoto.

3. Shinsengumi: was a special police force organized by the Bakufu (military government) during Japan‘s Bakumatsu period (late Tokugawa shogunate) in 1863.

4. Fox’s wedding: The Kitsune no Yomeiri (狐の嫁入り, “the fox’s wedding”), which is similar to “monkey’s wedding” in English, is a strange event told about in Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu. It refers to sunshower or sun shower, a meteorological phenomenon in which rain falls while the sun is shining

Life.3 Team [DxD] vs The God of Darkness' Party

The next day afternoon—.

We visited the [Kyoto Sirzechs Hotel], where the school trip group (Ravel, Koneko-chan, Gya-suke, Ingvild, Nakiri, Millarca Vordenberg, Nimura Ruruko-san) would be staying at. It was the same hotel where we had stayed last year. The current second-year students of Kuoh Academy had started to gather in the hotel lobby and were ushered by the bellboy to the hall very much like last year, where the teachers had gathered the students in the hall to notify them on important things.

Hence, Rias and I disguised ourselves and entered a cafe inside the hotel that was situated near the lobby where Ravel and the others were currently present. Speaking of the clothes for our disguise, we wore our usual clothes, hats, and sunglasses as we both were pretty popular among the Kuoh Academy students after all. However, Rias' characteristic crimson hair would stand out, so she changed her hair color to blonde using her demonic power. I'd say that Rias' western face and great style suited her blonde hair! No, I think it was also the best! Blonde Rias was really nice! This hotel also had a lot of international customers staying over as well. So, with the addition of a hat and sunglasses, Rias wouldn't stand out too much… Though she might stand out because of her beauty, I didn't think her identity as Rias Gremory would be found out easily by the students as her hair wasn't crimson. Plus, she wore a hat and sunglasses. Even when we joined Ravel and the others, there were several kids who didn't realise that she was Rias at first.

Now, the reason as to why we had a meeting with Ravel and the others in the Hotel's cafe was obviously because we wanted to

discuss about yesterday's incident. We told everyone through Ravel that we were previously attacked by Sonneillon and Gressil last night. Though Ravel and the others wondered if they should actually participate in the school trip, we told them to come to Kyoto as students and they did that. However, the teacher who acted as their guide, Rossweisse-san, as well as Roygun-san, who stuck along as a temporary medical staff, were not present as they were watching over the students. And under such circumstances, we, the ORC members, started our meeting. Nakiri started off with his question straight to the point.

"What's the enemies'…Sonneillon and Gressil's goal?"

"They planned to annoy us, who were present in Kyoto, and King Enma-sama…I guess. Well, one thing for sure is that they are a threat to the parties that support [DxD]."

I answered so after taking a sip of my coffee. The reason was because Gressil did say 'Before we fight against King Enma-sama". … It might be because I was born in Japan that I added '-sama' to King Enma's name. During my childhood, I was told "If you do naughty things, Enma-sama will throw you into hell. ". Koneko-chan, who seemed annoyed, said,

"… I can only say that they're annoying, doing such things at this time"

Gasper frowned and asked,

"So the enemy…the one who is behind this is primordial God of Olympus, right?"

Rias nodded..

“Yeah, after analysing the spells that were cast around Kyoto, as well as the magic circles during Gressil and his friend’s attack, it was revealed that they were related to the God of Darkness, Erebus.”

That’s right, the conclusion that the analysis team gave was that the spells and its patterns were of God of Darkness, Erebus’. Gressil and Sonneillon must have been guided by him. The pawn of [Sitri] peerage, another second-year student like Koneko-chan, Nimura Ruruko-san, then spoke about her opinions with her eyes half closed.

“I’ve thought about this before, but the people in the Rulers of Hell union are spoiled brats, or rather bothersome complainers, right?”

As usual, y-you sure go straight to the point! W-Well, in a way, you could say that though, the bothersome complainers thing. Rias said,

“Different mythologies have different ways of thinking and views on beliefs. Moreover, judging by the myths, in addition to a world where love and hate are all jumbled together, Olympian Gods are nothing but naughty people. It’s not something that we can perceive.”

Conversely, towards beings of Christianity origin, of Biblical system the Angels, the Fallen Angels and the Devils other factions seemed to have opinions like “This kind of thing is, you know, that…” or “Angels of the Bible are…” or “That thing about Devils is…”. As such, it’s true that one’s view would change depending on the mythology and the culture of that person.

…Well, that being said, the Christianity’s overzealous missionary work at other mythologies’ domains a long time ago seems to be still deeply-rooted among the Gods of all mythologies (even though we have formed an alliance), so it was not like the creation of the Rulers of Hell union was completely unrelated to that…

…Above all, the [Sacred Gear System] that was left behind by the God of the Bible, especially the existence of Longinus which turned

out to be quite a complex thing where Gods from each mythology viewed them as dangerous or secretly targeted them. The Goddess of Night Nyx who had attacked us previously also had her eyes on Ingvild's new Longinus. Nakiri asked Rias and me about our next course of action.

"So, what's the truth behind this incident and what's our plan?"

Rias and I looked at each other and nodded. Rias then instructed to the person sitting behind her without turning back.

"We'd like that."

"All right, understood."

As the person behind hid his presence, the young man who was disguising himself with a hat and sunglasses then snapped his fingers. Following that, this room was instantly filled with faint mist, engulfing all of us. The next moment, we were at the cafe with everyone but our comrades gone. Half of the School Trip group was surprised, but Ravel soon understood what was happening and calmed down. The boy in disguise sitting in the table behind took off his hat and sunglasses — It was the mist user Georg, a Longinus user from the Hero Faction. Using his [Dimension Lost] ability, he had created a pseudo-space with a barrier that resembled the real world. We were then transported to that pseudo-space's cafe by Georg.

…This was nostalgic. We were engulfed by the same ability a year ago, but as an opponent. I remembered that we were transported from Togetsu bridge and Kyoto station to this pseudo-space. That's right, Georg would take part in this time's discussion. Georg said to Rias,

"There's no one besides us here, and no one would be able to enter as well. Without someone who has quite the skill, that is"

Rias then expressed her gratitude.

“Thanks.”

“Umm, what’s this?”

Nimura-san said that whilst looking restlessly at this place as there were no other customers other than us. From what I’d heard, this mist could be sensed by only those with supernatural abilities or monsters. Outside this space, we appeared as illusions, making it appear as if nothing happened inside the restaurant. The other customers and staff seemed to be perceiving it like nothing was happening. Ravel silently said,

“Clearing people out, huh?”

Rias nodded.

“Yeah, as there might be spies lurking in this hotel as well.”

Nakiri bent his body forward upon hearing that as he asked.

“Is that rumor true?”

Rias let out a sigh and answered,

“—It has become clear that there are [Hidden Khaos Brigade] members in all mythologies.”

[—]

Koneko-chan, Gasper, Nakiri and Nimura-san were so surprised that they couldn’t say anything. Ravel already knew about this, yet her face still turned grim. On the other hand, Ingvild, who couldn’t understand anything, tilted her head cutely. Millarca-san, upon realizing that the cakes weren’t transported to this pseudo-space, hung her head as she went ‘Tohoho…’ while looking at her empty plate. By the way, Millarca Vordenburg-san, who was wearing thick

clothing — was a pure-blooded female Vampire and a princess of the Vordenburg family, the backbone of the Carmilla Faction, one of the two main Vampire factions. She was a second-year student in Kuoh Academy, and also the current accountant for Xenovia's Student Council.

However, as she was a pure-blooded Vampire, she had bad affinity towards sunlight and had to wear thick clothing during the day to prevent her skin from being exposed to the sun. She was also famous for that in Kuoh Academy. She was different from the 'Daywalker' Vampires like Gasper and Valerie, who were able to move unhindered during the day. She worked together with Nakiri Ouryuu and was asked by Ajuka Beelzebub-sama to investigate the Longinus [Innovate Clear] and [Telos Karma]. She also seemed to be close to Elmenhilde as they belonged to the same faction.

—Now let's get back to the topic, the [Hidden Khaos Brigade]. Rias continued,

"[Khaos Brigade] and its successor group [Qlippoth] couldn't function normally due to their valuable charismatic figures — Shalba Beelzebub, Cao Cao and Rizevim Livan Lucifer being gone. However, there was still a considerable amount of people that took over organization's ideology or devoted themselves to it, and even now their numbers were increasing little by little. And before anyone noticed, that group came to be known as [Hidden Khaos Brigade]."

Ravel followed up.

"The reason why there were suspicious people who succeed in infiltrating Kuoh town or important locations of other mythologies was because there were insiders who leaked the information to the enemy. …The problem is that they are perfectly hiding their identities."

Nimura-san, whose face also turned grim, asked Ravel,

“Are you saying that they even lurk in the Sitri household or Gremory household?”

Ravel answered,

“Yeah, I’m afraid so.”

Nakiri muttered.

“I wonder why those guys are increasing…”

Rias said,

“Envy and doubt follows the strong. Those who doubt keep looking for answers, and when they found the [Khaos Brigade]’s terrorism matched the answer they were looking for, the [Hidden Khaos Brigade] was born.”

Ravel narrowed her eyes and said,

“…Why did the [Khaos Brigade], who was our enemy, fight against [DxD]? In fact, weren’t they the ones in the right? There is a high possibility that those who doubt our powers reach such conclusion. It’s in accordance with the rise of our power and fame.”

… I did indirectly learn of this possibility from Ravel, but she only properly told me about this last night. Cao Cao, as well as team [Slash Dog], consisting of Ikuse Tobio-san and his friends, who had snuck into various places to investigate, said that [Hidden Khaos Brigade] was becoming something that we couldn’t turn a blind eye to.

… The true form of justice, huh. … I often saw lines such as [Justice is relative] or [The enemy also has their own justice] in manga and movies… To think that we would be feared, or even seen as enemies

by random people as a result of putting our lives on the line…I couldn't say anything. … Were the miracles that I continued to pull off instilling fear in some individuals…? … Damn, this was not the right time to think about such things. We just had to face the threat we were facing right now! At the very least, there would be casualties if we didn't fight. And just for that reason, I believe I could fight. Nimura-san put her hand on her chin and thought deeply.

"Does this mean that this [Hidden Khaos Brigade]…is leaking information to the Rulers of Hell, God Erebus and his faction?"

Nakiri asked Rias,

"Would it be possible to bypass the barrier that was put together by the main "brain" of every faction—the current Maou Beelzebub, the technology of Grigori, as well as Norse mythology's magic just because of the leaks?It's becoming a vicious circle of updating the formula each time they bypass the barrier and then they manage to get through again, right?."

Rias said with a serious look,

"…I've heard that there is someone who's capable of doing that from Ajuka-sama."

Rias took a glance at Georg. As she did, Georg then put a finger in front of his mouth.

"Please don't tell anyone what I'm about to say now. Remember not to tell anybody once you get out from this barrier, as I'd like to keep the number of people who know about this as small as possible, and only to the people that I've isolated here."

As everyone nodded, Georg started to talk.

“There is a very high possibility that the ones who thought up of a way to break the barrier in Kuoh town was one of the six former Lucifer families — the Nebiros household.”

Koneko-chan turned a bit grim upon hearing the name Nebiros.

“…”

The Nebiros household. It was one of the six households that directly served the previous Maou Lucifer, which was similar to the Lucifuge house that Grayfia-san belonged. A long time ago, there was a civil war between the previous Maous’ government and the anti-government (the current Maou government). While the six households sided with the previous Maous’ government at the time, there were some who persisted, yet there were also those who had become extinct.There were also those whose current state was unknown. Nebiros was one of the households that went missing. The Nebiros household had a deep connection to the birth of Koneko-chan and Kuroka, as Koneko-chan’s father was a human and a researcher who was related to the Nebiros household (as well as one of the 72 pillars, Naberius household). Georg continued,

“The people from Nebiros were known for their skillful techniques in the Underworld records, and they’re still missing at the time. The previous leader seemed to be Zaoroma Nebiros, and he’s considered to have survived the civil war that happened in the past. Plus, that he had a children or disciples that inherited his research or knowledge.”

“… It’s quite vague. You know, that considered part.”

That’s what I said doubtfully. Georg shrugged his shoulder.

“… The information about them mostly doesn’t come to light. They seem to be a quite careful bunch. In fact, some clues leading to them only appeared after the alliance of the three factions and the formation of [DxD].”

Georg looked at Koneko-chan and said regretfully.

“This is something that’s quite hard to say in front of the person who is related, but you could say that the fact that the Nebiros was related to the birth of the Toujou sisters was quite the information.”

“…No, don’t mind me. Please continue.”

After being urged by Koneko-chan, Georg nodded and continued.

“After that, both us and the [Slash Dog] team went after Nebiros, but we couldn’t get a single lead. We found almost no traces. That being said, although we didn’t get any detailed information about the data that you gave to Beelzebub-sama, I’ve heard that it’s quite useful.”

We handed Koneko-chan’s hairpin that seemed to contain the research data that was left by Koneko-chan’s father to Beelzebub-sama for further research. …A research to create a transcendental being, huh… Assuming it came true, it’d be quite a big deal if it was used for wrong purposes. Ravel seemed to have noticed something and asked Georg.

“Almost no? So you did find some traces…?”

Georg nodded.

“Yeah, the Toujou sisters incident is one, and the other trace that we found was from the higher-ups of the Old Maou Faction that he negotiated with. However, it seems like after that their negotiation was cancelled. Also, when Freed Sellzen turned into a chimera, it was said that the technique used in that process was from Nebiros.”

That’s some nostalgic name there! … Freed was a [Stray Exorcist], a young priest whom we faced several times last year. Like Lint, he came from the Sigurd institute and was a brother-like being to her as he carried the same genetics. Freed used to be a warrior in the

Vatican. However, due to the many problems that he had caused, he was exiled and became a stray. Eventually, Freed joined the [Khaos Brigade] and was turned into a chimera, turning his appearance into a new one, yet…in the end, he was done in by Kiba's hands. …Who would have expected that both the technique that turned Freed into a chimera and the research of turning someone into a Transcendental being would have something to do with Nebiros. Georg continued on,

"Not only that, it's also assumed that he might be indirectly connected to Lucifer's son Rizevim by giving him advice on how to open the door to the other world."

I asked.

"So that Euclid bastard doesn't confess anything about that?"

Euclid Lucifuge was Grayfia-san's actual younger brother, yet he used to be Rizevim Livan Lucifer's right-hand …Well, he was also quite the bad guy. Originally, he was also the one that triggered Rizevim's unwholesome actions. Rossweisse-san called him siscon-bastard. The reason was because he had a forbidden feeling towards his real sister Grayfia, and even caused trouble to Rossweisse-san. It's natural that he was called that. After I defeated him, Euclid was imprisoned as of now. I've heard that he wouldn't be able to get out anymore. Georg moved his head sideways in response to my question.

"It seems like only Rizevim knew about that. It might be Rizevim's own decision or Nebiros' condition. But I've heard that Euclid Lucifuge didn't deny the possibility of Rizevim and Nebiros having a relation."

… D-Don't you think this talk is becoming more and more and more secret-ish? I asked Georg.

“Is it possible that he was the guy who’s pulling the strings of all the incidents that had something to do with us from behind?”

I unintentionally asked about Nebiros who was the one acting behind the scenes of the giant incidents like the civil war in the Devil world, Koneko-chan and Kuroka, the Nekomata sisters’ incident, as well as [Khaos Brigade] and Rizevim. I guess he’s the [Hidden boss]?
However, Georg shook his head sideways.

“He’s not the real boss of the incidents that happened until now. It’s assumed that they might actually not have the desire to control the flow of events from the shadows and direct the world. …Still, they might actually be aiming to turn this world around in the future regardless of the current assumption.”

Georg fixed his glasses with his middle finger and continued,

“But well, there’s no telling what their goal might be even from well-informed people. But one thing that’s certain is that Nebiros’ “brains” had shown up before [DxD] and other mythologies indirectly and became a hindrance for us.”

…I see, in other words, they participated widely in various incidents starting from Koneko-chan and Kuroka’s birth up to cooperating with Rizevim. It’s not like researcher from Nebiros wants to do directly do something to us, however turned out to be a nuisance for us through the bad guys.

Rias let out a sigh and said,

“So that means that he’s also providing magical techniques to the Rulers of Hell union. That’s the reason how they could manage to sneak in even after the barrier was renewed…”

Georg gave his affirmation.

“Yeah. Their research is really outstanding if it’s able to beat Asgard’s magic research, Ajuka Beelzebub-sama’s brain and Grigori’s technological prowess. It’s completely bizarre.”

… The research funds must be provided by [Khaos Brigade], Qlippoth and the Rulers of Hell union. And they are doing a new research… So that meant that as long as we were here, there would be some who hate us, and as long as there were those who hate us, Nebiros would continue to exist…huh?Wait, to begin with, what did Nebiros’ research specialise in? Making someone to be a transcendental-class being, and chimera research…anti-barrier techniques…and he seemed to have received a request from Rizevim to do something in the other world… As I thought about that, Nimura-san seemed to grasp the information and said what’s on her mind.

“… So this means that the barrier in Kuoh town was simply a piece of crap.”

N-Nimura-san, that’s way too blunt! W-Well, it’s true that the enemies kept coming in and there were also complaints from my comrades though! Let’s remind her that she must not say that to Rossweisse-san, who was one of the people in charge of the barrier later on. Nakiri said,

“Well, despite the fact that Kyoto’s a town of magic, the mountain and river spirits have been dominating since a long time ago, so I guess it’s okay to say that the barrier here is shit. The reason was because there are too many power spots which create distortion that could accidentally create a hole that enables other beings to infiltrate. That’s why the Five Principal Clans always patrol around the city and fix the distortions.”

Nimura-san said,

“Doesn’t that mean Kyoto didn’t think thoroughly about this as those in charge actually added more power spots for the city’s prosperity?”

Nakiri tilted his head and made a complicated face.

“… It’s something that was decided by the higher-ups long ago after all…”

—Nakiri suddenly changed the subject and asked again.

“I understand that this pseudo-space is a necessary measure, as well as the fact that there are probably some guys who are providing the technology behind the scenes. I’ll get back to the main topic. So, how did the God of Darkness Erebus and its group annoy King Enma? Have we got this figured out?”

Rias nodded and looked at Georg.

“Georg, can you continue your explanation?”

Georg responded as he continued his talk.

“Yeah. Those guys—God Erebus and his group have left magic circles on various temples that worship King Enma. The research on this is done, but the magic has already activated.”

[—!]

The second-year students were surprised (with the exception of Ingvild who was sleeping) upon hearing this. For the spells to have been activated when they just came for their school trip to Kyoto today, it must be quite outrageous for them. Georg continued,

“However, the magic by itself is not complete, as this spell requires the magic to be put on several important points to be complete.”

“Can’t it be dispelled?”

Georg pointed at the floor and answered Gasper's question.

"Due to the magic already permeating the ley lines flowing below, it's close to impossible. We can only wait as the magic becomes weaker over time."

Nakiri put his hand on his chin and asked,

"Ley line? What are they planning? Kyoto is full of power spots and ley lines. Do they plan to destroy the whole Kyoto?"

Georg said,

"From the investigation of someone who's knowledgeable in spells and affiliated with [DxD], it's discovered that there is a bigger motive.— Kshitigarbha. In Japan, he's called Jizo-sama and he was present everywhere throughout Japan. He's a Dōsojin[1] that protects people from all kinds of bad luck, as well as protecting the land. He was regarded the same as King Enma."

Just with such explanation by Georg, Ravel who had a nice intuition, turned pale.

"…You are kidding, no way…"

"…I have the same thinking as Phoenix, the worst case scenario."

Nakiri said it obnoxiously.

Georg created a small magic circle on his right hand and made a 3D map of Kyoto on top of the table. As Georg snapped his left fingers, there were pillars of light appearing in various places. They seemed to be well-known tourist spots and power spots.

"Kyoto is a magical town and a giant power spot. As such, we believe that they used Erebus' magic on Kyoto and its surroundings to serve as a source of power. After that, they will use the ley lines to

circulate the evil power to all the Kshitigarbha that exist throughout the country and destroy them."

The countless pillars of light that served as the power spots in the map of Kyoto turned into a mass of light so big that it covered the entire Kyoto and started to flow outside the map. It was a scene showing the power in Kyoto leaking to other places. Gasper was lost for words. On the other hand, Rias narrowed her eyes and nodded,

"If all of the Jizo-sama throughout Japan were to be destroyed at once…"

"The evil aura is going to be distributed to the whole of Japan at once. Following that, the [Hell's energy] will then ascend and affect all living beings. If that happens, it will surely have a bad influence on the plants, animals and humans everywhere… There are a number of important places in this country that use the available energy for ceremonies, events, barriers and inviting luck. Kuoh town is not an exception, as there are also many Ojizo-sama there."

This time, it was the current second-year students who completely understood all seriousness of what Erebus, Gressil and Sonneillon were trying to do. Rias and I had also shivered upon hearing this explanation from First-gen Sun Wukong-jiisan, Georg and [Slash Dog]'s Magician Lavinia Reni-san in Urakyoto previously. If only one or two, no—ten Ojizo-sama were to be destroyed, there wouldn't be this much damage caused, but it's a completely different story if it's all of them that existed in this whole country.

—Those bastards, they were planning to bring out bad consequences to this country. Nimura-san stood up from her place and went up to the table in a bewildered state.

"T-This is a very serious thing — right?"

I, Rias and Georg who came to explain showed a bitter expression. Georg said,

“Buddhist Hell, which is governed by King Enma, is currently in a rush and trying to figure out what they should do. At the same time, the Gods who are worshipped in Kyoto also stopped standing still and started to cooperate and get in contact with the Three factions or other mythologies that cooperate with [DxD].”

The fact that even the Gods who were standing still in last year’s Hero Faction incident started cooperating meant that they also realized the danger. Rias said,

“Nyx used Ingvild’s Longinus and created a small ruckus in Kuoh town, but her brother Erebus’ plan is far bigger. His bad intentions are directed towards this whole country, and his plan is one that is far more ominous than the one by Norse Evil God Loki.”

Nakiri said,

“… It makes me remember the incident that happened four — no, five years ago. But I only heard the news though.”

Georg nodded.

“They must’ve used the incident that the [Wizards of Oz] caused as a reference. …We also did a similar thing last year.”

Nakiri then looked at the 3D map that’s created with magic and asked,

“… So, what’s our plan? What exactly do we have to do? It’s exactly because Hyoudou-senpai, Rias-senpai and [DxD] already have a plan up your sleeves that we are in this isolated barrier, right?”

Geez, what an intuition from my male junior. By the way, it’s good that he quickly changed the topic. I said,

“Of course, we’ll prevent it. We’ll fully defeat the Rulers of Hell who’ve got something to do with this.”

My juniors had a brave expression in response to my words. Rias said,

“We also got a piece of info leaked from the Netherworld.”

“I’ve heard that the Netherworld is not monolithic, but nice job on getting it.”

That’s what Koneko-chan said. The [Knight] of Sitri’s Peerage— the Grim Reaper girl Bennia-san’s father was the Ultimate-class Grim Reaper Orcus, who belonged to the moderate faction which had doubt about Hades’ movements. We’ve also received some information from Orcus previously. It seemed that there were also people like him in the Netherworld. After addressing that topic, Georg said,

“There were many connections made when Sakra made me fall into Netherworld.”

After the [Demonic Beast Riot], possessors of High-tier Longinus Georg and Leonardo were dropped down to the Netherworld by Sakra’s own hand. Although he did a bunch of research there, it seemed like he also became friends with several Grim Reapers there. Rias declared to the juniors

“This time, the secret discussion with Grim Reapers from the Anti-Hades camp even touched upon post-war treatment of the Netherworld.”

“P-Post-war treatment?”

Nakiri said that with a surprised voice. Rias continued,

“All the higher-ups of various mythologies have viewed this time’s incident as an act of war. As such, the anti-terrorist team [DxD] which serves as a base for cooperation of each faction and a deterrence is ordered to destroy Hades and his patrons.”

[—!!]

—Destroy. After hearing such strong words, the juniors were surprised and gasped.

“…A war, huh?”

Nakiri said that seriously. Rias continued,

“This is going to be the first battle of that war . Though it’s also strange to call it like that given that we are constantly being attacked. However, we also have to settle things with Hades quickly, as they put us through quite a lot of hardship.”

Rias’s eyes — were glowing eerily. —We had been attacked numerous times until now after all. They even did it in the middle of the tournament. For them to even try to put my parents in danger, and for the sake of peace in the future, we had no choice but to settle things.

“Operation is planned for tomorrow. It’s better to start moving faster and spoil their plans. I’ll tell you the time later.”

That’s what Rias said. Georg then explained this time’s war summary

“About the operation. Thanks to the information we’ve received, we already know the rough placement of the enemy. We’ll send most of them to a pseudo-space specialized for fighting to decrease their fighting power prior to their actions.”

Georg then activated the magic circle on his hand once again. As the 3D Kyoto map began to rise, there was a new 3D map made in the

space below that. The new 3D map resembled Urakyoto closely. Koneko-chan who saw this said,

"…It looks like Urakyoto, this pseudo-space."

Georg nodded.

"The Youkai side is also cooperating with us, so we made the space resemble the one that they're used to. By doing this, it will be easier for us to know what's where and plan various strategies."

That's right, the space that we're going to fight against Erebus' group was based on Urakyoto. Last year, the pseudo-space was made to resemble Kyoto, but this year, it's Urakyoto. Gasper then expressed his doubt.

"The enemies are Devils that are said to be Maou-class and Primordial Gods, right? Plus there are also the unknown…a countless amount of the Devils born in Netherworld. To teleport such a big amount at once would be…"

Georg lightly smiled and fixed his glasses.

"I have received permission to use my ability. It seems like I'll be able to show you the true power of a High-class Longinus."

Due to Georg and Leonardo's Longinus being too powerful, they could even destroy a country depending on how it's used. No, they could even affect the world. For that reason, Georg and Leonardo's Longinus abilities were restrained. Georg could use it to a certain extent, but the immature Leonardo's abilities were restrained to almost completely sealed. Regarding the usage of Georg's ability, Sakra who is their boss, the higher-ups of the three factions, as well as all the VIPs of all mythologies had given him the permission. That's just how much of the groundwork was needed in order for Georg to use his abilities. After all, they were the ones who

caused the [Demonic Beast Riot] (although there was also Shalba Beelzebub's influence). Still, he was allowed to use it this time. That just showed how the way the Rulers of Hell handled wasn't tolerated by all of the mythologies. I said to the juniors.

"And with that, we'll be fighting Erebus' group with my peerage and the Gremory peerage, along with the Hero Faction, the Journey to the West team, the [Slash Dog] team and Urakyoto Youkais' military lineup. Also, there is something that we need the second-year students and Rossweisse-san to do."

Rias then looked at Koneko-chan and the others, and ordered them.

"I'd like Koneko, Gasper, Ravel, Nakiri and the others to protect Kyoto along with Roygun-sama, Rossweisse-san and the Five Principal Clans. There is a possibility of another group separating from the main group, and I'd like you guys to deal with them."

[Understood!]

My juniors instantly gave their affirmation. I looked over at the [Queen] of my peerage, Ingvild. Although she was sleeping, she naturally opened her eyes all of a sudden and our gazes met.

"Ingvild."

"What is it, Ise?"

"We have a harsh battle coming up. If you think it's impossible, you can wait in the hotel, you know."

Even though she had learned to control her demonic power, her experience was close to zero. There was a high possibility of her being unable to perform at her best due to the pressure of the battle. That's why no one would be mad even if she stayed back, but—. Ingvild shook her head sideways.

“No, I’ll participate. I feel that such is a fate for the ones in your peerage.”

—.

… I am really sorry for being a [King] who’s always involved in trouble. However, I wonder if there’s really such a fate like Ingvild said… I nodded.

“Understood. You just need to listen to Ravel. Ravel, I leave Ingvild to you.”

As I asked Ravel that, she replied in agreement.

“All right. However, if I think it’s too dangerous, I’ll ask you to step down.”

That was the best answer. After that, Georg continued.

“It’s more or less like this. I’d also like to talk about the details, but we’re almost out of time.”

Georg looked at his watch. He must’ve done it in order to check the outside time. Georg then took out a letter from his pocket.

“The strategy is written here. Please read it in your hotel room. Also, once you close the letter, it’ll self destruct, so there’s no proof left.”

Ravel acted as the representative and received the letter. I said to Ravel.

“Please also tell Rossweisse-san and Roygun-san about this.”

Ravel nodded.

“Understood”

“I’ll undo this space. After it’s undone, please act as if nothing happened.”

Georg then snapped his fingers as he said that — following that, the space itself trembled and we suddenly returned to the hotel's cafe. We could also see other people like the staff and other customers normally. Georg returned to his disguise and went back to his seat as if nothing had happened. Rias said,

"And with that, enjoy your school trip! I'll contact you if anything happens."

After she said that, she stood up. I suddenly remembered something and said to my juniors,

"Ah, also, you might receive a lecture from Rossweisse-san regarding 100-yen shops. Due to Azazel-sensei not being here, I think it's going to be a long one."

The juniors smiled wryly in response to my experience. —Now that we've told the second-year students about the plan, we have to prepare for tomorrow. Rias and I returned to Urakyoto and discussed our plan for tomorrow with my other comrades.

Part 2

The night after the secret meeting that we had with our juniors—.

After Rias and I came back to Urakyoto, the main members gathered in Yasaka-san — Leader of Kyuubi's mansion in order to discuss about the plan to deal with Erebus' group. In order to keep the talk from being leaked, the discussion was done in Georg's space. Although I believe that there were no [Hidden Khaos Brigade] members among the people that were present in Yasaka-san's mansion, we had to be cautious. After the discussion ended, the members separated temporarily and waited for the plan to start tomorrow afternoon. After stretching in the mansion's garden, I thought that maybe I'd take a walk around Urakyoto whilst being careful so that I didn't get noticed by other Youkai.

—However, there was a human figure on the high ground in the garden's end. It was Cao Cao. It seemed like he was enjoying the view of Urakyoto below him. I went closer and stood next to him. The view of the town of Youkai that spread below us was filled with lights, litting the dim sky that spread endlessly. Cao Cao murmured,

"The Youkai world. The beings here also have their own life and family, huh. And you also have a family."

"What's wrong with you?"

I was puzzled because he said something that was too out-of-the-box. Cao Cao didn't mind me and continued.

"Both Devils and Youkai…supernatural beings are the enemies of humans and should be defeated by humans. That's what I thought last year."

"You did say it's the dream and ambition of mere humans."

"And you drove us, your attackers away…and fought for the sake of your comrades and the people you care for."

I remembered the fight against the Hero Faction in Kyoto last year…and the [Demonic Beast Riot] that followed after it. I then said to Cao Cao.

"Human isn't a 'mere' being. Even Devils, Angels and Youkai, they are also not 'mere', because everyone's living. Although the thing I said just now was cliche, it's true. And you too are not 'mere', you know, Cao Cao. Though I have to admit that you need to reflect on what you did."

Cao Cao shrugged his shoulders and said,

"I am a 'mere'. I don't have anything but this spear. Though I have my comrades as well."

“But you can protect someone with that spear, right?”

“—”

Cao Cao looked at me in response to my words. His expression looked like a pigeon who’s been shot by a peashooter. I continued,

“Protect someone, you know. It’s actually an amazing thing. …I mean, there are many who want to protect, but can’t due to not having any power… When I first became a Devil, I was really powerless…and there were several occasions where I failed to protect. That’s why I worked so hard. Cao Cao, you see…having the power that enables you to protect someone is amazing.”

If you didn’t have power, you wouldn’t be able to save the people that you cared for. It’s because I…experienced such frustrating situations that I trained my hardest, so that I’d win and be able to protect that person next time. I was lucky enough to get various help from many people, which resulted in my current power right now. Cao Cao looked at the dim sky. As he did, he murmured,

“… If Siegfried and I were to meet you earlier, things might’ve turned out differently.”

Cao Cao’s eyes seemed to be filled with sadness, regret and repentance as he looked at the sky. However, Cao Cao suddenly changed his expression and asked me.

“Hey, Hyoudou Issei. Would you be my friend?”

—!

W-What’s this guy suddenly saying!? You surprised me there!

“W-Why the serious talk? Don’t just suddenly say things that aren’t you! You sent a chill down my spine!”

He replied to me who was panicking.

“Heh, no real reason.”

Cao Cao returned to his cool face and we both became silent for a moment. I finally snapped and replied,

“Well, I guess it wouldn’t hurt having a friend like you.”

Many things had happened between us, but he’s like a coworker to me right now. Plus, it wasn’t weird for ex-enemies to become comrades in [DxD]. Not as an enemy, but as a rival—.

“Well then, I—”

It was when Cao Cao was trying to say something.

“Gah! You think you can win against General Evil Dragon Bavo!”

“”””Waa~!”””””

The Hero Faction’s giant — Heracles and the Youkai children appeared to this high ground. Heracles was wearing the [Chichiryuutei Oppai Dragon]’s enemy [General Evil Dragon Bavo]’s mask and seemed to be playing that role with the children. The children were also wearing the mask of me in armor form, as well as Darkness Knight Fang’s mask. Heracles then removed his mask upon seeing me and Cao Cao.

“Oh, did I interrupt you guys? Hey, children! Here, I will return your mask, so go play over there!”

As Heracles returned the mask to the children, they ran off somewhere. It might be because Cao Cao and I drew attention that Heracles said it fidgetly.

“Being a kindergarten guard in Underworld made me a bit good at handling kids.”

After the [Demonic Beast Riot], he was captured by the Underworld's government and numerous spells were cast onto his body in order to render him unable to do bad things. His body would be burned if he did anything bad. Not only that, Rias's brother — Maou Sirzechs Lucifer-sama also gave Heracles a task to work as a kindergarten caretaker and a guard in a certain kindergarten in the capital of Devil world, Lilith. Basically, Heracles would be working in the kindergarten whenever he's not participating in a match, not being ordered by Sakra, or not helping [DxD]. Likewise, the sole woman in the Hero Faction, Jeanne, was also sent back to Vatican and accused of being guilty. Under the holy Pope's command, she was asked to work as an apprentice cook in the warrior training facility. Because of that, both of them seemed to have lost their thorns and changed to completely different people. I've heard that Heracles was doing a good job and he seemed to be open with the Kindergarten's children. Probably, he played with Youkai children because of that experience. Heracles then looked at me.

"Hey, Oppai Dragon."

"What is it?"

"—The show here, make it a successful one. You know just how valuable the show tickets are, right?"

The [Chichiryuutei Oppai Dragon] show tickets became a premium item that's really hard to get. It might be because the program was not only broadcasted in the Underworld, but also in other mythologies that it was known by not only Devils. Plus, Rias, I and many others also participated in the Rating Game World Tournament, which increased our recognition and popularity explosively. Because of that, the tickets for the show in Urakyoto also became something that people fought for. Heracles was talking to me about that. He continued.

“You guys’ job is to make an everlasting memory to the kids who managed to get those platinum tickets. And we, the Hero Faction, will guard you. Think of it as a compensation for the ruckus that we caused last year.”

After saying that, Heracles turned back and left the place. Cao Cao saw Heracles off and said,

“He’s changed, right? The commands from the Underworld’s Higher-ups took the poison out of him. Not only him, Jeanne, and all my comrades too.”

The current Hero Faction was acting as Sakra’s vanguard, and sometimes moved for Mount Meru and [DxD]. In addition, each of them worked at the human world on their own. The money that they received along with the reward given by Sakra were then sent as donations to rebuild the cities that they destroyed while they were still a part of [Khaos Brigade]. They’d all made their own amends.

“You also changed.”

As I said that, Cao Cao showed a smile upon his face.

“I guess so. That just shows how touching our fight was. No, I would say it was a powerful medicine[2].”

By the way, I became interested in the thing that Cao Cao was about to say.

“Hey, Cao Cao, what did you want to say—”

It was at that time when I was still talking.

“Ise-kun, so you were here.”

Kiba appeared. He looked at me and Cao Cao, and then said,

“Were you guys talking about something. Did I interrupt you?”

Cao-cao shook his head.

“No, we were just chit-chatting. If you have something with him, then go on.”

As Cao Cao said that, he left that place and went somewhere else. There were only Kiba and me in the high ground. In the end, I didn’t know what he wanted to say, but…oh well. I asked Kiba

“So, what is it?”

“Rias-neesan asked us to do a dry-run.”

I see. The event should run smoothly if the strategy goes as planned, but…Rias must’ve decided that we should practice even at situations like these. As expected of Rias, she didn’t have any compromise whatever the situation was. She planned to defeat Elebus, do sightseeing in Kyoto, make the event a success and make everything come true. It even made me, the main actor, fired up!

“All right, let’s go!”

Kiba and I went to the event venue together. At that time, I suddenly got interested in something and asked,

“By the way, Kiba, when you fought against Sonneillon, you were agitating him quite a bit. Why’s that?”

Kiba’s face turned red in response to my words that seemed like I was teasing him.

“… We were enjoying our trip after all. I thought we could have a peaceful trip this year, so…”

I see. There’s that incident last year after all. Plus, Rias and Akeno-san also participated this year. Kiba must’ve really looked forward to this time’s Kyoto business trip. I said to Kiba,

“Let’s accomplish all of it! We’ll defeat Erebus, go sightseeing in Kyoto again, and make this event a fire! That’s how the Gremory peerage does things, right?”

Kiba replied bravely with ‘That’s right’ in response to my words.

Part 3

—The night before we commenced our operation.

I came to the large bath in Kyubi Leaders’s mansion. The Japanese style bath was made from wood and it was quite spacious as well. Plus, there was an open bath outside! …Was this the Urakyoto’s Onsen? As I had such thoughts, I washed my body and headed to the open bath. A large outdoor bath that could easily take in fifty people. The sky was…as usual, dim, but that’s what made it feel elegant. …Man, I suddenly realized something after being alone. Who knew that I’d be involved in the ruckus that happened in Kyoto for two years straight. …No, the places that we went to always became a place where the enemy would gather as well… It’s like we’re being chased.

—The ‘peace’ for you might be the other’s ‘pain’.

The things that Vali said came back to my mind. Everytime we were attacked by our enemies, I always remembered that. The Old Maou Faction’s Shalba Beelzebub, Qlippoth’s Rizevim Livan Lucifer, and now it’s the Rulers of Hell union… All of them clearly made contact with us while viewing us as their enemies. However, there were also some whom I could make friends with, or should I say fight together with, even though they used to be my enemies. For example, Vali, Cao Cao and the Hero Faction, as well as Crom Cruach. On the other hand, the Rulers of Hell…I didn’t want to think that all of them would continue to view us as enemies. …But I guess that’s just my ideal. I mean…my parents were targeted, you see. If we continued to have a

quarrel, I might end up losing someone I cared about. I was just lucky this whole time… Luckily, all the mythologies finally decided to stop Hades and its group. It's better to defeat him before more casualties arise.

—This is for the sake of our peace. Even if we both have different views on justice. I submerged half of my face into the hot water. …But you know, I also thought of this. …Just how long would I continue to fight beside Rating Game matches…?

…A Devil's lifespan was ten thousand years, and this was just my second year in this world. And considering that, my fighting experiences were… Would I be experiencing this for around the next ten thousand years?No, but, would there even be anyone who viewed us as enemies for ten thousand years? I hoped that once we defeated Hades, there would be no more humans or other supernatural enemies. …If we managed that, then the true peace would… the impending peace would come, or so I want to… It was when I was thinking about those things. I could sense a very nice, fluffy sensation on my body! Was someone clinging onto my back!? The one who peeked from over my shoulder was— Yasaka-san!

"What were you possibly thinking about?"

"Wah!"

I was surprised due to Yasaka-san's sudden appearance and tried to separate myself, but — she got a hold of my arms and pulled me towards her.

~*munyun*!

My face was engulfed in her gargantuan Oppai! This elasticity is too great!The softness, tension, gloss, and that smooth sensation! Those unrivaled sensations on my face were felt throughout my body,

making the situation unbearable! Yasaka-san embraced me and said to me while being glued to me.

“I was thinking of cleaning myself before going to Sekiryuutei-dono’s room, but you are also here.”

W-wait, so this was a mixed bath!? I was told by the attendant (a female fox) that the bath was here, so I came!

“I-Is mixed bath okay here?”

As I asked that, Yasaka-san smiled and replied.

“This is for women. The one that I, Kunou and the other attendants use.”

I-It’s for girls!? Why did that attendant bring me here!? Though I must admit that I was happy being in a girl’s bath! Yasaka-san then said as if replying to my heart’s doubt.

“It’s probably because she heard that Sekiryuutei-dono takes a bath together with the girls that you are engaged to. That must be her consideration.”

Are you for real!? Was that even a way of being considerate to someone!? I suddenly realized something in the words that Yasaka-san said just now… She said [Before going to Sekiryuutei-dono’s room]… I asked her.

“U-Uhm..”

“What is it?”

“You said ‘before going to my room’.”

Before I could finish my words, Yasaka-san got closer to me. Being pressured, I tried to retreat, but bumped into the edge of the bath. I was pushed up on that edge, but Yasaka-san didn’t mind as she just

kept coming closer to me, and pushed me — to the stone floor! Her two unbelievably huge oppai were swaying left and right before my eyes! Yasaka-san then talked romantically.

“Yeah, I was thinking of increasing your fighting spirit before going to war. By being Sekiryuutei-dono’s partner that is.”

“M-My partner?”

“Because you will be fighting for the sake of the humans’ Kyoto and Urakyoto, the place where Youkai live, I thought I could maybe comfort you using my body.”

C-Comfort me…! Just what in the world were you thinking before the start of an important plan!? Yasaka-san then slowly leaned on me, who was below herrrr! Yasaka-san’s breasts, stomach and thighs were completely glued to me! Her perfectly soft skin completely covered me…and boiled my brain! My nosebleed wouldn’t stop! I-If I continued to be done like this by an older woman… I really wouldn’t be able to hold it! Yasaka-san then whispered into my ear.

“Kunou often said that she wanted a younger sister or brother. And I also think that it’s not a bad time to have a second child. Plus, we are already like this, so let’s just do it here. — I’ll have the Sekiryuutei’s child inside me, okay?”

…

I lost my words in response to the continuous shocking events… My brain stopped functioning properly due to Yasaka-san’s sexy voice and her bold words! Whilst in that situation — Yasaka-san kissed me! She kissed me by force, and even inserted her tongue into my mouth, intervening it with my tongue!

Without showing any signs of stopping, Yasaka-san continued to play with my tongue in the long, passionate and relentless kiss. My mind

completely melted due to the beautiful girl's tongue play. I felt like my consciousness was in heaven…! However, that consciousness was suddenly brought back due to a certain thing.

"…Haha-ue?"

A familiar voice! K-K-K-K-K-K-K-K-Kunou!? In this timing!? She saw me and her mother kissing in the bath! Finally, Yasaka-san pulled her tongue from my mouth. A string of saliva appeared as Yasaka-san kissed me for the last time and stopped the deep kiss. My eyes were spinning so much that I couldn't even get up or even look at Kunou. I then heard the sounds of Kunou's feet rushing through the stone floor.

"H-Haha-ue! Why is Ise here!? More importantly, what did you do!?"

"Kunou, step down. I am currently in the middle of sexual intercourse with Sekiryuutei-dono."

"…"

A moment of silence—. Suddenly, Kunou burst out and said.

"Y-Y-You're shameful, Haha-ue!"

Following that, Yasaka-san let out painful words.

"… Mother is lonely. After commanding the Youkais, I also want to be spoiled by a gentleman. Seeking warmth from the gentleman I like is not wrong, is it? Plus, Kunou's brother or sister might be made. Do you not want one?"

"T-That's… I do want it, but…"

"I know, right?"

It's not 'I know, right?'! Who'd expect that you'd explain the necessity of child making in front of your child! W-Well, I didn't mind

being the partner for child-making! In fact, I was honoured! B-But doing it in front of Kunou was impossible, wasn't it…? That's what I thought, but Yasaka-san was different!

"Kunou. Come closer. See closely how mother and Sekiryuutei-dono have intercourse, as you might also be Sekiryuutei-dono's wife in the future."

She even told her daughter to watch from a close distance! Yasaka-san, you're amaziiiing! You're bold and too sexy! Of course, Kunou let out a confused voice.

"B-But, Haha-ue, if a child between you and Ise was born, then that would make Ise my father, right?"

"That's a different matter. It's an affair between Devil and Youkai, don't mind it."

YOU SHOULD MIND THAT! I-It'd be a complicated family circumstances, you know!? It was at that time.

[Ise, Oyakodon[3] is also nice, you know.]

I felt like I just heard Azazel-sensei's voice in my brain! While I had such thoughts, Yasaka-san then sat on top of me who was lying while facing upwards on the floor, and said in an arousing manner.

"Now, Sekiryuutei-dono, you'll be Kunou's Chichi-ue[4]"

I-I'll become a Chichi-ueeee! Somehow, like Rossweisse-san's incident, the girls were really trying to make me a father! I-I'll be a father in my high-school year!? I-I'll be in such a drama-like setting…?

"That's it!"

"That's right, stop it right there."

I could hear more familiar voices! As I looked towards the source of the voice whilst still having my body face up, there were Rias and Akeno-san (both naked)! What a surprise! I was found out cheating (?) by my fiancée on the spot! Yasaka-san was surprised by these two's appearance.

"Wow, when did you two…? I didn't feel your presence at all."

That's right! Rias and Akeno-san's skill in hiding their presence was terrifying! Especially in this kind of situation, it would show its effect! The fact that their presence wasn't felt by Youkai's Leader — the Nine-tailed fox Yasaka-san made me think that their abilities were steadily getting stronger! Rias put her hand on her chin and let out a sigh.

"And I came here because I felt that something's wrong…"

Akeno-san also put her hand in her cheeks and said,

"I also felt that 'ah, my husband's probably doing something forbidden with other girls'."

They're sharp! Don't you think the girls' instincts are becoming sharper!? However, it's not only Rias and Akeno-san who showed up here—.

"Wow, this outdoor bath has a nice atmosphere — Hey, wait, Xenovia, Asia-san! Come here, it's amazing!"

"What is it, Irina? Is the bath amazing — wait, this is amazing!"

"What happene—Haaaa! Ise-san is doing something amazing!"

Irina, Xenovia and Asia appeared, and the three of them were surprised looking at this situation. Yasaka-san couldn't help but show a wry smile in response to my future brides gathering here.

"Hohoho, I see. So the people who love Sekiryuutei-dono can sense something like this, huh."

As she said that, she tried to get off me, and whilst doing that, she whispered in my ear.

(One day, you'll surely have intercourse with me, okay?)

—.

…My brain once again melted as I was told that. …My nosebleed continued after being told that I was being booked by a beautiful girl… Rias let out another sigh, showing that she couldn't take it anymore.

"…I wonder if I can also control the Leader"

Rias, who had to act as the leader to the people I was engaged to, smiled wryly. In the end, everyone enjoyed the outdoor bath together. It seemed like because of such an incident happening, my head felt clear and I wasn't thinking any useless things anymore!

All right! Let's make tomorrow's plan a success!

Part 4

The day of our fight against Erebus' group—.

I was in my room preparing for the fight — -as I put the uniform that I wore in Rating Games.

"All right"

After I finished clothing myself, I went out of my room and — Kunou was waiting in the hallway. Her expression showed that she was concerned, but it completely changed at once as she suddenly looked brave.

“Ise, I’ll leave Kyoto and this Urakyoto to you.”

That’s what Kunou said. I patted her head in response and said,

“Of course! I have to defeat the primordial God quickly and do my events.”

“Umu! That’s right!”

Kunou replied energetically. However, I suddenly noticed the necklace on Kunou’s neck. It looked like a snake and was rainbow-colored. Kunou then started to touch the necklace on her neck and said to me as if she noticed my gaze.

“This is an amulet that I got from Phis-dono.”

Oh, so it’s an amulet from…Ophis. It looked like the Spectre Dragon and Ouroboros Dragon at the same time. After that conversation, we gathered in front of the mansion. The ones that were participating in the fight against Erebus’ group were the Gremory peerage (including my peerage), team [Slash Dog], the Hero Faction, and the Youkai from Urakyoto who took pride in their strength (Including Yasaka-san). Plus, there were also First-gen Sun Wukong-jiisan and the other Journey To The West team, though they weren’t here as they were waiting in another place. On top of that, Ravel, Koneko-chan, Gasper, Nakiri and the other second-year students team along with Rossweisse-san, Roygun-san, special ability users from the Five Principal Clans and all the factions who rushed to help us upon hearing the ruckus were waiting in the Human’s Kyoto.

The ones who were going to be on the offence team would basically be the Gremory peerage, team [Slash Dog], the Hero Faction and the Youkai from Urakyoto. The ones on the support and defence team would be the Journey to the West team, as well as the current second-year students. The offence team would go to Erebus' main force in the pseudo-space and fight them there. The defence team would respond to Erebus' other forces and try to defend both Kyoto and Urakyoto to the very last. By the way, this time, Lint-san was placed together with the Hero Faction group due to her own request.

… As there might be a chance of the Rulers of Hell infiltrating the other [DxD] members' area of jurisdiction — like the Bael peerage, Agares peerage, and Dulio with his [Brave Saints] that consisted of reincarnated Angels, they were basically waiting on their own respective place, but depending on the circumstances, we'd also ask for their support. Kuoh town, the most important place, was protected by the Sitri peerage, Bova, His Eminence Vasco Strada, Vali's team and many other supporters in case something unexpected happens. It's extremely strong! The defence was close to perfect. Now all that's left was to be on the offence.

At the mansion's garden Georg, who would create pseudo-space in another dimension and control it, deployed a magic circle to check enemies' current situation. Georg's role was to keep an eye on the pseudo-space, as well as locking the enemies so they didn't escape. Elmenhilde was left in Urakyoto in order to become Georg's support.

"Good luck, everyone."

That's what Elmenhilde said to us. The place that Erebus' group was using to hide themselves (it seemed like they apparently also created a special space like Georg, where Sonneillon, Gressil and other Devils that the Rulers of Hell created were hiding in) had already been discovered. Before sending them to the pseudo-space, we

investigated the current circumstances of the area they were using. Georg said while he closed his eyes and deployed the magic circle.

"… There are two beings stronger than Ultimate-class Devil, and a countless number of beings with the power of a High-class Devil… Oh, there goes our target."

Cao Cao asked.

"Is it Erebus?"

Georg nodded.

"Yeah, I sensed the aura of…an old Olympus God, which means that Erebus must also be there."

I see, so that means everyone's present there. Rias and Yasaka-san then looked at each other. Rias said,

"Understood. Let's start our plan. Is everyone good?"

In response to Rias' words, we, the Gremory Peerage, team [Slash Dog], the Hero Faction, as well as the people from Urakyoto, and last but not least, Yasaka-san, nodded.

"Well, let's begin."

"All right."

It was when Georg gave his affirmation. His expression suddenly changed.

"—! I was noticed by Erebus!"

[—!]

Everyone became surprised! So Erebus noticed that we were observing their area! Cao Cao screamed.

“GEORG, DON’T DO IT!”

Georg responded by fixing his glasses as he put up a nihilistic smile on his face.

“Don’t look down upon the user of [Dimension Lost]!”

The next moment, Georg’s magic power suddenly heightened up and reached that.

“Balance Break!”

Along with his scream, Georg’s magic that was heightened to its limit burst and created countless amounts of magic circles that covered the whole sky of Urakyoto! Amaaaazinng!

The whole sky was filled with magic circles! It’s even bigger than Rossweisse-san’s magic that was strengthened by Asgard’s magical weapon [Mistilteinn Wand]! By the way, If I’m not mistaken, the magic and magic circles are of Norse Magic, Demonic Spells, Fallen Angel Spells, Black Magic, White Magic, Fairy Magic and the like, he surely can deal with a great variety of them! Countless numbers of those spells were being deployed! This was the true power of the Longinus user and Magician Georg!

Georg then clapped his hands. As he did, the mist started to appear in that place. As he opened his hands slowly, there was a rectangle thing appeared from in-between his hands. That will be the basis of the pseudo-space. After Georg put up several protector-like things on the pseudo-space base, he raised it to the sky. When we saw the space-like three dimensional object floating up, it started to emit divine lights and then was transported using a magical circle. With this pseudo-space would spread inside the other dimension. To think that such a small thing would become as big as the Urakyoto…

—The Balance Breaker of the High-tier Longinus [Dimension Lost], [Dimension Create] was an ability that lets its user create a barrier. The barrier that's created with that ability could be infused with various effects. This time, a solid feature was added to the barrier so that even Primordial Gods or Maou-class Devils couldn't escape easily. That was the protector thing that he added before. It's the numerous barriers that were also deployed around the pseudo-space. Their functions were to become a solid support for the space so that the enemies wouldn't escape, as well as not to break when we went all out inside. However, there was also a weakness to the pseudo-space even after the solid barriers. It was the barrier's cores — the Sacred Gear's device, which was placed inside the space. If this were to be destroyed, its abilities would be lost as well. During the promotion test to Middle-class Devil, we were also put inside a pseudo-space and aimed to find and destroy the key, which was the barrier's device. Although the device was quite solid, there was a high possibility of it not being able to endure the attacks of Maou-class or God-class beings. For that reason, we also had to put someone in charge of guarding that device.

—Suddenly, there was a change to Georg's body. After the pseudo-space was deployed, a pale mist started to appear around Georg. The mist that was centered on Georg spread up to the sky. The mist was then absorbed by the magic circles. He might be sending the mist to the enemies' place using those magic circles. The amount of the mist emitted kept increasing and an unbelievable amount of it was absorbed by the magic circles. Georg said,

"I've started the teleportation, but Erebus is resisting in his area! There is a high possibility that I might not be able to teleport all of you to the designated place— which is right before the enemy. But I'll try to send everyone as close to the target as possible! I am really

sorry. After you guys are teleported, find the enemy and defeat them! Also, have someone guard the barrier's device."

[Understood!]

Everyone was fired up and responded to Georg's order! Simultaneously, teleportation magic circles were deployed below our feet and started to emit light! A moment later, we would be sent to the pseudo-space, which meant that our fight against Erebus' group was about to begin! Now, we'll eliminate another God, Ddraig! Ddraig, who was inside me, boldly laughed.

[You know, we just have to do what we usually do. If we're in a pinch, then we just have to figure it out at that time.]

What a reliable partner! After that, the magic circle started to emit even more light and burst at once—.

Translator's Notes and References

1. Dosojin: traveler's guardian deity (traveller)

2. Medicine:also means "strong poison" which is basically a reference to how Cao Cao was defeated

3. Kanji was 母子丼, actually a dish that's made using chicken (mother) and egg(child)

4. Kunou uses Chichi-ue to refer to her father

Second Graders

Right before the execution of the plan against the Rulers of Hell union — Erebus' group, Nakiri Kouchin Ouryuu, along with the other second-year students team, as well as Rossweisse-san, who was the students' guide, and the doctor Roygun Belphegor-san, gathered in the uninhabited forest in the vicinity of Iwashimizu Shrine of the God of War, which was placed in the 'unlucky quarter (Southwest)' of Kyoto. Since they were still in the middle of their school trip, they were still in their school uniforms. However, they were wearing their summer uniforms that we quickly sent as it would allow them to move easier. If the enemy were to invade Kyoto, they had to go through either the 'evil Northeast', which was the Enryakuji temple in Mt. Hiei, or the 'Evil Southwest' Iwashimizu Shrine of the God of War. Himejima Suzaku and the Magicians from the Five Principal Clans must've gathered in Mt. Hiei's Enryakuji temple. The 'Evil Southwest' was going to be dealt with by Kuoh Academy's people. The time for starting the plan was a while after noon. They were placed there since once [DxD] started moving, the enemy must be fighting back and the enemy's other group must move as well. Taking Kyoto's past into consideration, evil spirits and the likes were mostly concentrated in either Enryakuji temple or the place where Ouryuu and the others were currently present.

Each member was relaxing in their own way as they were waiting for the scheduled time. Before the fight, Ouryuu was feeling lonely as his partner Bova wasn't present. Although they'd have a little quarrel every time they met, it didn't mean that Nakiri hated him. After all, they both idolised Hyoudou Issei, so it was only natural that both of them shared many things in common.

It was said that Bova had a wish to become stronger for the sake of his master, Hyoudou Issei, and asked Crom Cruach to make him his apprentice. Crom Cruach, on the other hand, seemed to take an interest in training the son of the former Dragon King — [Blaze Meteor Dragon] Tannin as he agreed to it. The seniors had been surprised for quite a while now upon seeing Crom Cruach's behaviour. However, Ouryuu wanted to support the wish of his partner, the [Sekiryuutei's Fang], to become strong. Because he deeply regretted that [I wasn't able to show my best part in the tournament]... Suddenly, the [Pawn] of the Sitri Peerage, Nimura Ruruko spoke to Ouryuu.

"Hey, Kouchin, I am sorry to bother you at a time like this, but..."

"What is it, Nimura?"

"Are you free? Wanna go out with me?"

Splatter! Nakiri splattered the water he was drinking from a bottle. Millarca then said 'Oh geez' and wiped Ouryuu's mouth with a handkerchief. Ouryuu replied to Nimura with his mouth twitching.

"Ha? What are you saying suddenly at a time like this? Didn't you have a crush on Saji-senpai?"

That's right, this girl was supposed to have a crush on the person who's a member of the Sitri peerage, Kuoh Academy's third-year student, as well as the Vice-president of the Student Council and a [Pawn] like her, Saji Genshirou-senpai. Or at least, that's what Ouryuu had heard people say. On the other hand, Nimura replied with her eyes half-closed, murmuring whilst looking as if she had mixed feelings..

"...Geeeeeeeeeez. We're just friends. I've decided to give him to Momo-san. That being said, Momo-san's still in the middle of a struggle, but I bet she'll somehow manage it. By forcing him to

establish the fact or the likes, that is. But I know that I can't wait that long."

…

Ouryuu didn't know how to respond. Toujou Koneko, Ravel Phoenix and Gasper Vladi who were around were bewildered as well. Momo-san was referring to the third-year student, as well as the [Bishop] of the Sitri Peerage, Hanakai Momo-senpai. She was also a former member of the student council. According to the rumours, Hanakai Momo-senpai was said to also have a crush on Saji-senpai. However, the problem was that Saji-senpai himself liked the [King] of the Sitri Peerage, as well as the previous student council president, Sitri Sona — Sona Sitri-senpai. Plus, Saji-senpai himself wasn't aware of Hanakai Momo-senpai and Nimura's affections. That must be the reason as to why Nimura-san got tired of waiting. Ouryuu let out a sigh and said,

"...Y-You are really a flexible person. …It's impossible for me. I have a fiancée who's a part of the Kushihashi family from the Five Principal Clans. I don't hate her, and I guess it's not bad to marry her as well. — Also,"

Ouryuu then lifted Millarca in a princess-carry in that place.

"I also plan to take Millarca as my wife. There is even an agreement with the Vordenburg family."

"Yeay! I'll be taken!"

Millarca did a double-peace sign while being princess-carried.
Nimura was taken aback.

"What!? Is that even possible!? This is Japan and you are Japanese!"

Ouryuu put Millarca down and continued,

“It’s not a problem for a man who’s the next head of/one of the Five Principal Clans. Because I have to inherit my power, having three wives will be allowed by the country’s hidden side. Though my fiancée would formally be my wife.”

Hyoudou Issei-senpai’s influence was big on Ouryuu. He was idolised by many girls and had the tolerance to welcome everyone. The girls would also get along with each other, making the harem properly function. Although they’d sometimes fight for Hyoudou Issei, there was no hatred involved. It was a complete cultural shock for Ouryuu. Maybe men should aim for the path of Harem—. That’s what Ouryuu thought regarding men after inspecting his idolised senior up close.

“Hyoudou-senpai is an amazing person, you know.”

Ouryuu put his thumbs up and said that.

“You said that boldly while putting your thumbs up! Well then, what about me!?”

Nimura pointed her finger at herself and said that. Ouryuu instantly answered,

“... I personally hate you to death.”

He really hated her… Nimura was so surprised that her eyeballs almost jumped out.

“Did I just get instantly rejected!? Hey Shirone, Ravel, did you hear that!? Isn’t this guy cruel!?”

Ravel Phoenix and Toujou Koneko were also bewildered.

“E-Even if you ask us suddenly...”

“...The guy who gets matched with Rurukichi will have a hard time.”

Nimura was shocked in response to Toujou Shirone’s answer.

“...Really…”

Nimura was crushed. According to the rumours, Nimura wasn’t someone who liked to do as she pleased when she met the previous Student Council President Sitri Sona-senpai and Vice-president Shinra Tsubaki-senpai. After separating from those two strict individuals for a while, she began to show her true self under the new president, the lively Xenovia. That’s what the Sitri peerage had said.

After that, Nimura then talked frankly with her classmates Toujou Koneko (Shirone), Ravel Phoenix and Gasper Vladi. Nimura then asked Ravel Phoenix,

“...Hey, by the way, how many people does Hyoudou-senpai have?”

“More than ten people are already confirmed, and it’s getting bigger. — Wait, you don’t mean…”

Ravel Phoenix realised what’s going on, but Nimura herself put her hand on her chin and let out a sigh instead.

“Well, that one looks pretty hard as well… Hmm, Kiba-senpai is too cute for a Senpai… Ingvild, are you also Hyoudou-senpai’s lover? Eh, she’s sleeping while standing.”

“Zzz… Zzz…”

Ingvild was sleeping and standing even at a time like this. Nimura then looked at Gasper Vladi with brimming eyes.

“What about Gyasuke-kun?”

“What? M-Me?”

Toujou Koneko instantly followed up.

“...Gya-kun also has someone important to him.”

“Heh, so you are actually doing what you gotta do, you male crossdresser! DAMN YOUUU!”

Nimura screamed at the sky.

“You guys, lower your voice down!”

The guide Rossweisse-sensei warned them with twitching eyes. The last year's second-year students, Hyoudou-senpai and the others, had a hard time due to president Xenovia Quarta's erratic actions and Ouryuu also felt that the current second-year students were also more or less the same, especially for one person that is.

As expected, Nimura is a no-go. She's troublesome—.

Ouryuu had that thought in his heart many times. On the other hand, the doctor Roygun Belphegor-sensei smiled and said,

"Although the third-year students are interesting, the second-year students are also amazing in other ways."

Rossweisse-sensei let out a sigh and said,

"... It's because the third-year students like Ise-kun and Xenovia have experienced many things that they are able to calm down. Maybe you can think that their energetic side has been transferred to the current second-year students."

Such was the talk between the teachers. The atmosphere was completely off considering that they were about to fight — when it all changed at once. The one who noticed the change was Gasper Vladi, who excelled in detection. As he faced up to the sky, he looked in a certain direction.

"—They're here."

Following his words, darkness appeared around Gasper Vladi and started to envelop his body. Everyone looked towards the unusual looking sky. Lightning started to flash and distortions started to appear across the area. Ravel Phoenix smiled boldly and manifested her wings of fire on her back.

"Once this ends, we'll continue our sightseeing."

“... I don’t want to come home without enjoying matcha sweets.”

Toujou Koneko manifested her ears and three tails as well while shrouding herself in Touki. Ouryuu also enveloped himself in Touki. Luckily, they were in Kyoto, the town of magic. The ley lines — the power of the Dragon Vein was at a whole different level. He could go crazier than usual. This was the place where he could fully utilise the specialty of the earth-element sacred beast that he was contracted with. Rossweisse-sensei also took out her Mistilteinn wand and created numerous magic circles. Roygun Belphegor-sensei enveloped herself in demonic aura as well.

“All right, let’s go!”

Millarca who wore thick clothing also put up a weird fighting stance. Ouryuu thought that she must’ve been affected by a fighting game again. On the other hand, Nimura created shoes on her feet, which were actually her artificial Sacred Gear, and said with a troubled voice.

“...Eh? Wait, wait, so am I the only one who’s single out of the supernatural side of the second-year students? Shirone and Ravel are Hyoudou-senpai’s lovers, right? Millarca is Kouchin’s, and Gyasuke-kun has a female candidate… And even if you say that Ingvild currently has no one…!”

“Oh, that’s enough—!”

Ouryuu couldn’t finish his words as he saw a giant Water Dragon appearing behind Ingvild who just woke up. It was around thirty metres tall. Ouryuu quickly understood that it was made out of an incredible demonic power. Everyone gasped in response to the overwhelming compressed aura that was being released from the Water Dragon. The mass of her aura was now several levels beyond what she displayed during the training camp that lasted only for a

few days. Ingvild Leviathan asked Ravel Phoenix while deploying such a large-scale demonic power.

“Hey, what should I do?”

Whilst Ravel Phoenix was being overwhelmed by the Water Dragon that Ingvild Leviathan created, she answered,

“... Ingvild-sama should keep your demonic power just like that so that it doesn’t go out of control and release it at the enemy. By the way, how many of that do you think you can create?”

“Hmm, this doesn’t take that much aura, so I guess more than ten,” answered Ingvild.

—*This doesn’t take that much aura.*

… Was she joking? Ouryuu had a stiff face and could only smile wryly in response. After that, numerous transportation magic circles appeared and humanoid figures started to come down one after another. Everyone responded by nodding to each other and went to the place where the enemy descended. They soon arrived at the place where the group of Devils with evil aura appeared. It was a familiar aura, that of the artificial Devils that the Rulers of Hell created in an experiment. Upon sensing their presence, the enemies showed a vicious expression.

“It seems like their main force is stronger, but…for now, we just have to kill them and burn the city, right?”

“Yeah, we just have to go crazy. Kakaka!”

“We’ll kill everyo—”

While the artificial Devil was about to finish his sentence, he and the Devils in his surroundings were attacked by a giant Water Dragon

that completely swallowed them! As Ouryuu and the others turned back, Ingvild Leviathan was tilting her head.

“Uhm, am I supposed to not attack them yet?”

She created another Water Dragon behind her while saying that. On the other hand, the artificial Devils were also shocked, and as soon as they grasped that they were just attacked—

“Yare, yare, yare!”

“You shits!”

“Don’t look down on us!”

They started to attack at once along with those violent words and aura! On top of that, there were more artificial Devils coming down one after another from the magic circles in the sky! Ouryuu silently tapped the ground with his feet twice. Ouryuu’s spell was like a ripple that sent out waves through the forest with him at the center. A moment later — a part of the forest’s earth started to rise up! One, two, three…ten of them floated up and were thrown towards the artificial Devils! The earth mounds that floated completely swallowed the artificial Devils, and after that — Ouryuu stepped on the ground one more time, and at the same time, the earth became one again. The artificial Devils were squeezed by the cage of earth and were forced to cough out blood.

“Your attacks are always merciless like usual.”

Toujou Koneko who said that threw out her Kasha made of purifying white flames, annihilating the artificial Devils. The purification power was close to a certain-kill attack for Devils. If they took it head-on, it was not going to be painless. Ouryuu also thought that Toujou Koneko’s purification attack was quite merciless, but he didn’t say it out loud.

“Eat this!”

“Okay, I’ll ‘crack’ it!”

Rossweisse-sensei created numerous magic circles and unleashed various elemental full-burst attacks, while Roygun Belphegor-sensei cracked the artificial Devils’ aura attacks with her specialty, [Crack].

“Vampire Princess Punch!”

Beside them was Millarca, who punched the artificial Devils away with her fist. Her monstrous power wasn’t something that one should make light of.

<<Well, I guess mine is Half Vampire Punch?>>

As he said that, he changed into the Beast of Darkness — the Balance Breaker of the Longinus [Aeon Balor], [Forbidden Invade Balor the Beast], and splendidly punched a number of artificial Devils with his big arms. After that, the eyes of the Beast of Darkness glowed and stopped time for the artificial Devils. Rossweisse-san followed him up by doing a full burst at them and defeating them all at once. Whilst everyone was engaged in battle, there was something moving with a high-speed and blowing the artificial Devils away.

—It was Nimura. The armour on her had increased and it was not only on her feet now, but also on her hips, arms, breasts, and the top part of her body. On top of everything, her speed was so overwhelming that Ouryuu was hardly able to follow her moving around the fighting area with his eyes. This was the Counter Balance (the Balance Breaker of the artificial Sacred Gear) of Nimura’s artificial Sacred Gear [Procellarum Phantom], [Hyper Procellarum Phantom]. Nimura showed herself from time to time and said,

“I’ll go all out so that I can find a boyfriend little by little!”

There were no artificial Devils who could get hold of Nimura, who was running around without a single sound. In fact, they were the ones who were kicked around. Hyoudou Issei-senpai had said that Nimura's speed was more refined compared to when he met the Sitri peerage, and might even be faster than Kiba-senpai. After all, she would sometimes say to her surroundings that she felt they were moving slowly, and according to those who were knowledgeable in Sacred Gears, "the Counter Balance ability of [Procellarum Phantom] could possibly primarily involve time", which meant that it might be possible for Nimura to move at a different time from them. Ouryuu thought '*see, in many ways, you can say that there's no one that can constrain Nimura.*' Nimura said,

"Hey, Kouchin, turn into a Dragon!"

—I can't believe it! I was urged by Nimura!

Ouryuu released a huge amount of Touki from his body and burst it at once to change his appearance. The Golden Humanoid Dragon — Ryuukijin/Humanoid Ogre Dragon. However, due to him using the Dragon Vein of the magical city to change form, the quality of his Touki that enveloped his body was different from the usual. As he radiated his powerful Touki to his surroundings, Ouryuu jumped from that place and instantly kicked ten artificial Devils away. They were all smashed to smithereens due to his insane Touki. Ouryuu waved his golden aura around and said,

"I won't let you escape. I'll defeat the enemies that should be defeated if the time comes!"

Ouryuu stepped on the ground vigorously. Simultaneously, the earth which the artificial Devils were stepping on started to rise up quickly along with them. Numerous earth supports also appeared in the forest and Ouryuu used them to jump upwards. Ouryuu, who was now sky high, endowed both his hands with Touki and shot them at

the Devils that were on top of the supports! The earth that had just suddenly started to float up surprised the artificial Devils and made them lose balance, causing them to take Ouryuu's Touki bullets head-on and annihilating them.

"You shiiiiiiit!"

There was one artificial Devil who managed to fix his balance, dodged Nakiri's Touki bullets and tried to come there, but — he was hit by the Water Dragon that Ingvild Leviathan released. Ouryuu looked down and did a thumbs up towards Ingvild and vice versa. As he did, he rode on top of the Water Dragon's head that she had created and charged towards the group of artificial Devils along with it. Upon looking at the defensive battle situations in this 'Evil Southwest', Ravel Phoenix enveloped the artificial Devils with the flames from her wings and mumbled,

"We might be doing just fine protecting this place (Kyoto)."

That's right, by doing this and protecting the Kyoto of the human world, Hyoudou-senpai and the other [DxD] could rest easy and fight the enemy's main force.

—Those guys will win the fight this time too, and then, we'll be able to continue our school trip—.

Ouryuu and everyone else believed that—.

Cao Cao's group, the Hero Faction, was the first to come in contact with the enemy's main force after being transported to the pseudo-space that resembled Urakyoto. Near the small river in the east, both the Hero Faction and Erebus' group were glaring at each other from the opposite banks of the river. Cao Cao quickly identified the head of the enemy's group.

—Sonneillon, a former member of the [Black Satan of Darkness Dragon King] team.

He possessed a powerful ability based on pressure — [Crushing] (it seemed like Hyoudou Issei and the others were the ones to name it, so they continued using that for the sake of convenience). Although the aura that was emitted from his body was filled with evil intention, it was also childish in nature. However, judging from the amount of his aura alone, it clearly surpassed that of an Ultimate-class Devil and was around the level of Maou-class Devils. Even if he were to release his violent aura jokingly, a typical being would be destroyed. Cao Cao, who tapped his spear on his shoulder, thought 'Now, I wonder what should I do'.

The enemy's number was far larger than Cao Cao's group, and all of them had the power of a High-class Devil. Well, the ones to be transported here were those who were quite powerful. The rest of the members were left to defend the Urakyoto. The brown-haired male higher-up — Perseus asked Cao Cao,

"So, what are we going to do with the enemies? How are we going to fight them?"

“The enemy’s got no plan as well. We just have to deal with them one by one and make sure that they are defeated.”

“Oh, so we are free to do what we like?”

“Yeah, but don’t leave even a single enemy behind. I’ll take care of the leader.”

Perseus responded to Cao Cao’s words with ‘You’ve really changed’. —Suddenly, they felt something nostalgic. They felt a familiar presence next to them—. As they turned their heads, Lint Sellzen was standing next to them. For a moment, she somehow resembled Siegfried. Lint Sellzen then said,

“Wow, the Devils’ group are on a full line-up huh, Cao Cao-sensei.”

“...Hmph.”

Cao Cao couldn’t help but smile.

“Ohoho, did I just say something weird?”

“Nope, but I do want to ask you something first. Why did you want to fight alongside us?”

Lint Sellzen did a thumbs up and said with confidence,

“I’ll act as the substitute for Sieg-sensei! Although I won’t be able to do it exactly like him, I’ll do my best!”

“Well, it’s true that you won’t be able to do it exactly like him, but…you made us feel nostalgic for a second there.”

Lint Sellzen tilted her head in response to Cao Cao’s words… As such a conversation ended, the Devils who were on the other side of the river bank screamed,

“The fuck? We were about to destroy a Hero Show, and yet we got transported to this pseudo space here…”

“And here I was hoping to see the face made by the brats who adore [Oppai Dragon] while screaming…”

“Won’t they cry ‘Oppaaaaaai’ or something like that?”

[Gyahahahahaha!]

The Artificial Devils laughed vulgarly. It seemed like they were born perfectly, but in terms of education, it seemed like they had none. Cao Cao had the thought that Balberith and Verrine might be the ones to receive a special education first, while Gressil and Sonneillon were being educated next. The others were raised roughly — no, they must be just placed there. —Heracles then took a step forward whilst looking angry.

“For fuck’s sake, don’t just ruin the kids’ fun.”

The talk just now must’ve been a taboo for him now. It was something unimaginable until last year. For that man who enjoyed going crazy against supernatural beings to change this drastically… As they had that thought, Sonneillon pointed his finger at the Hero Faction. It acted like a signal for the artificial Devils as they shouted and charged at them—

[OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOH!]

Cao Cao silently stuck his hand forward. The Hero Faction’s powerful members also jumped out from their current position upon seeing that. Both groups clashed in the middle of the river! Cao Cao’s group heightened their power and activated their Balance Breaker at once!

[Balance Breaker!]

Jeanne, Heracles, Perseus and all the other powerful Hero Faction higher-ups activated their Balance Breakers at roughly the same time.

“All right, let’s go!”

A Dragon made of Holy Swords manifested next to Jeanne, which she controlled to deliver huge damage to the artificial Devils whose weakness were Holy Swords. Jeanne’s sub-species Balance Breaker — [Stake Victim Dragon] of her Sacred Gear [Blade Blacksmith] enabled her to create Holy Swords that had various attributes added to them. The artificial Devils writhed in agony and turned to dust upon receiving the attack of the Dragon made of Holy Swords. Holy Swords were still something that a Devil couldn’t take easily even if their raw power was that of a High-class Devil. Especially [Blade Blacksmith] with its Balance Breaker activated, was on a whole different level. Jeanne herself was defeating the artificial Devils one after another with the Holy Sword in her hand. The artificial Devils had the worst compatibility with her. On the other hand—

“Oryaaaaaaaaaaaa! Flyyyy upppppp!”

Heracles had bulges all over his body, with each one of them turning into a missile that knocked away a group of artificial Devils. It was the Balance Breaker of Heracles’ Sacred Gear [Variant Detonation] — [Detonation - Mighty Comet]. His original ability would damage and explode upon the moment of impact, but his Balance Breaker’s ability allowed him to create explosive missile-like objects on his body that could be fired at the enemy. He went all out and discharged a huge amount of missiles from his body. As a result, the Artificial Devils were blown away one after another.

“Take this! Don’t you fucking cause any trouble for the people of Kyoto!”

The one who was fighting like a knight with his longsword and shield was Perseus, who had left the Hero Faction before the Kyoto fight. After leaving the Hero Faction due to differing views, he returned once again and wanted to redo things from scratch following Cao Cao becoming Sakra's vanguard. He also participated in the Rating Game World Tournament as a member of the Hero Faction group with a pure goal like [*As someone who carries the blood and soul of a hero, I would like to challenge other supernatural beings head-on*]. His Sacred Gear was a giant shield with a carving of Medusa's face on it — [Aegis Mineralization]. Once the eyes of Medusa's face on the shield opened, the people covered with its light would be turned to stone. If the person entering the range of his shield was weaker than him, then there was no way to fight this almost instant-death level ability. In addition, Perseus was about to activate his Balance Breaker.

"O Queen of Snakes, I'm counting on you!"

The carving of Medusa's face on his shield moved as if it had its own will while simultaneously, its face — no, its head detached from the shield! The detached head got bigger quickly and turned into a giant face of Medusa. Its countless snake hairs were squirming. The giant head began to float in the sky and started to fire petrification light at the enemies, instantly turning the large area with the artificial Devils to stone. The snake carvings on Perseus' sword also became alive and gave off an evil aura. Medusa's head that was flying around the sky along with Perseus, who fought as if he was dancing, destroyed the enemies. Those who got slashed by Perseus' sword endowed with Medusa's aura were also petrified. It was his Balance Breaker — [Caput-medusae and Mineralization Knight].

"S-Shit! These guys are strong!"

"Aren't these guys Humans!? How are they this strong!?"

The artificial Devils whined. The higher-ups of the Hero Faction more or less wrecked the group of Artificial Devils one-sidedly. High-class Devils just weren't a match for the higher-ups of the Hero Faction. That was a testament to the experience and training they had accumulated so far. Also, the enemies were only High-class Devils in terms of raw power. They weren't trained in using their power. This was an easy win.

—Well, there are still some miraculous guys who could manage to beat us even though we're already like this though…

Cao Cao remembered last year's fight. Among the powerful people in the Hero Faction, there was one person who played a remarkably active role, turning the Artificial Devils into dust one after another. It was the reincarnated Angel with silver wings.

"Well, well, this purple flame is super deadly falling in love with the Devils."

As Lint Sellzen released her purple flames all around her, cross-shaped pillars made out of flames started appearing everywhere and turning the artificial Devils into dust. Her Sacred Gear, the Longinus [Incinerate Anthem], was one of the relics, the Holy Cross. Due to it being a relic, it was something far more dangerous and deadlier than a Holy Sword to the Devils. If one did not have sufficient power to dodge or guard against that, he/she would just be turned into ash. As a matter of fact, the purple flames that she released annihilated the artificial Devils similarly. Upon looking at Lint Sellzen's simple way of fighting, Cao Cao thought "That simple-mindedness is cute". He slowly walked on the battlefield while his comrades were fighting. After that, he hummed.

"Oppai Oppai, Oppai Dragon."

It was the [Oppai Dragon Song] from the [Chichiryuutei Oppai Dragon] show—. Because he had heard it numerous times, he had completely memorised it. At that moment, he just felt like humming that song.

“He must be the boss!”

“We just have to kill this guy!”

The Artificial Devils then came after Cao Cao!

“Zoom Zoom Iyaaan.”

Cao Cao struck his Holy Spear forward at an imperceivable speed whilst singing that song. Simultaneously, the artificial Devils were turned into dust. Cao Cao’s Holy Spear was said to be the strongest amongst the thirteen — no, eighteen Longinus currently. It was also said to be the first Longinus in addition to being the top of the top amongst relics, a Sacred Gear that was said to be able to pierce not just Devils and monsters, but also Gods. Devils who weren’t that powerful would be annihilated just by being pierced by it.

“Oppai Dragon also pushes today.”

Cao Cao continued to walk while singing, defeating the artificial Devils that came at him with ease. He even walked in accordance with the song.

… This way of fighting, I wouldn’t even have considered it in the past.

—I thought I could become this world’s protagonist.

At that time, within me, I had the Holy Spear, one of only thirteen incarnations in the world that could even destroy a God. That’s what made me think that I was chosen by the world. People who had the same line of thought assembled, and I, who was trying to reach my supernatural goal, felt that I was the center of the story. We stood

together, thinking that my comrades who came to me could also become heroes—. But, I was wrong—.

The faces of Hyoudou Issei, Vali Lucifer and Ikuse Tobio popped onto his head. There was a noticeably different Devil with a vast amount of aura blocking his way, who was walking and destroying the Artificial Devils with his Holy Spear.

"Hahahahaha! So you're the leader of the Hero Faction, Cao Cao! The user of the Holy Spear! I am different from these guys! I can even match Sonneillon and Gressil!"

"I see, so what?"

"Heh! Smile while you can! My specialty, [Long—"

As he let out a large amount of aura from his body and tried to release his specialty from his hand—.

"—Slow."

Cao Cao instantly thrust his spear several times, creating holes all over the body of the Devil with the large amount of aura. After that, due to the effect of the Holy Spear, the Devil turned into dust. It seemed like the Devil just now was quite strong among them, after he was utterly defeated by Cao Cao, the other Artificial Devils started trembling greatly and none of them dared to get close to him. Cao Cao thought.

...*Those who are able to become the protagonist of a story are those who are able to create miracles. They're those who are chosen by the miracle. Those who are able to cause miracles every time*.

Cao Cao realised that through his own experiences.

I am…no more than the son of villager A or B that just happened to have this strong spear.

He then remembered his first comrade-in-arms that became his comrade. The first friend who went around the world together with him—.

—Hey, Siegfried. Did you believe that you were able to become the protagonist even until your very last moment? If you did, was it really happiness? Would you be happier if you were to meet Hyoudou Issei rather than me? Would you end up not dying? That's what he had been thinking all along. Suddenly, there was a red aura pillar created far in the pseudo-space. That had to be Hyoudou Issei's aura attack. While looking at that, Cao Cao remembered the conversation that they had yesterday.

—Well, I guess it wouldn't hurt having a friend like you.

Cao Cao couldn't help but laugh.

"**Friend**, huh. That's a strange thing. For me to be this assured when he's on the battlefield with me. —I see, so this might be what a **'Friend'** is."

He was also assured when Siegfried was beside him—. There was one Artificial Devil who laughed whilst the others were afraid of Cao Cao's existence.

"Kukuku… It's the user of the Holy Spear…"

He was a thin man with a clearly different aura from the rest — Sonneillon. Upon engaging with Cao Cao, Sonneillon was silent at first, but then suddenly spoke.

"Snap."

Cao Cao quickly realized it was his special ability and responded by stepping back, dodging the invisible force attack. The ground Cao Cao stood on distorted as if it were crushed.

… I shouldn't get hit by that. Cao Cao couldn't afford to be hit by the supernatural beings' abilities as he was a human. Due to him still being a human, there was a limit to his body strength (although there were people like Vasco Strada who was on a different level). If he were to get hit, he would suffer a severe injury. But it was good as long as he didn't get hit. Cao Cao spun his spear and waited for Sonneillon to charge. On the other hand, Sonneillon charged a large amount of aura and reached out his hand. A moment later, Cao Cao quickly skipped about as he felt an unusual atmosphere flowing around him. Sonneillon's [Crushing] ability fell onto Cao Cao in waves one after another. However, Cao Cao easily dodged all of them. Although he wasn't as fast as Kiba Yuuto, he still managed to dodge Sonneillon's attacks.

"...Why does it not hit? He isn't supposed to be fast."

Sonneillon felt something weird as his attacks didn't connect with Cao Cao. Cao Cao had fully grasped Sonneillon's habit and area when he used his ability [Crushing] from his match recordings. After experiencing it firsthand, Cao Cao's analysis became more exact and therefore heightened his predictions. Sonneillon would always look at the place where he would execute his attack. Although he was able to use his ability continuously due to the raw power that he had since he was born, he still had to look at the place where he wanted to activate it, creating a gap of several milliseconds, and the attack itself would take around one second. Cao Cao was able to easily guess where the attack would land just by looking at his eye movement and body gestures. Even if he was in his attack range, it was still easy to dodge it as he still needed another second for the attack to land after looking at the target. Which meant—

"Why, why did it not hit!?"

Sonneillon screamed as he was annoyed due to his attacks not connecting.

“Even though it hit against the Holy Demonic Sword user! Why is it!?”

Hopeless — that being said, he must not be able to understand it. Sonneillon, who was just born, didn’t know that he lacked experience. There was also one big gap. Cao Cao tapped the spear on his shoulder and said,

“You are a genius. There’s no mistaking it. Unfortunately — it seems like I am the better genius.”

“...”

Sonneillon looked angry. Sonneillon was a genius in terms of both demonic power and physical aspects. But, that was all. Those things were common in Cao Cao’s circle. —The truly scary ones were those who were able to cause miracles continuously. A genius was like a joke to Cao Cao, who had seen someone getting a power-up continuously with just women’s breasts numerous times.

“If you had five years of experience, I don’t know if I can say the same thing though.”

Sonneillon became furious at Cao Cao’s taunt, scratching his head and screaming furiously.

“...That guy with quick feet, and now it’s you… Why do troublesome people keep appearing before me…?”

—.

Cao Cao knew that Sonneillon was heightening his aura. Sonneillon’s aura that kept being charged finally exploded, and a vast amount of aura was released into the surrounding area.

“GOOOOOOOOOOO!”

The pressure and the shock of the demonic power made the whole area tremble. In contrast, the aura that Sonneillon was giving off exceeded that of an Ultimate-class Devil. … *He has the aura of a Maou-class Devil*, was what Cao Cao thought deep in his mind.

Whilst giving off a powerful aura throughout his body, Sonneillon directed his bloodlust and hostility to Cao Cao. As he stretched both of his hands out,

“Snap!”

Cao Cao felt an absurd scale of pressure being released along with his scream. He quickly made his spear stand on the ground and instantaneously extended the tip, jumping high to the sky. A very large area of the place where Cao Cao was standing was compressed to the point that it looked as if it was excavated. A giant hole was made on the ground, and on top of it were the rocks, earth and trees that were compressed extremely into a ball. The compressed ball then fell onto the giant hole.

—If I take that, I’d be done for. Cao Cao smiled as he thought of that. It was starting to get interesting. Sonneillon looked at Cao Cao who jumped to the sky and tried to activate his [Crushing] there. If he stayed there, he wouldn’t be able to move in the sky and would be crushed to death. —Yet, Cao Cao silently said,

“Balance Breaker!”

He activated his Balance Breaker. A halo-like thing started to appear behind his back along with seven orbs the size of a bowling ball. Cao Cao stepped on top of the orb with the levitation ability — [Hatsutei Ratana] and dodged Sonneillon’s attack to the sky. The Halo that shone divinely and the seven orbs — [Seven Treasures] were the sub-species Balance Breaker of the Longinus [True Longinus], [Polar

Night Longinus Chakravartin]. Each of the [Seven Treasures] orbs floating around him had its own ability, endowing the user with seven new abilities due to the Balance Breaker. Although the sub-species differed from the [True Longinus]'s original Balance Breaker, since it granted the user seven new abilities, there were times when people in his circle and rivals would say that [It's unfair for you to have seven more abilities!].

Cao Cao thought, 'Looking at the growth of the Two Heavenly Dragons, as well as their comrades' strength, I wonder if the addition of these seven abilities would actually impact them?' He sincerely believed that their constant miraculous power-ups were way more terrifying. Cao Cao descended to the ground and declared to Sonneillon,

"The ones who were able to defeat my Balance Breaker were only either God-class beings, or those who could cause miracles. —Now, what about you?"

"Even though you're just a weak human, you're annoyinggggggggggggggggggggggggggggg!"

Whilst enveloping himself in a violent and vast amount of aura, Sonneillon activated his [Crushing] ability at his surroundings. Cao Cao ordered his comrades with his eyes and hand "Don't come closer! I'll defeat this one!", keeping them from entering the range of Sonneillon's ability. They responded by nodding their head.

Cao Cao threw his orbs at Sonneillon. The [Seven Treasures] flew at a high speed, and while Sonneillon tried to use his [Crushing] ability to destroy the orbs, Cao Cao used the [Atsusa Ratana], the orb with the ability to teleport things the wielder chose, to teleport the other six orbs, evading the attack. Although [Atsusa Ratana] was compressed and destroyed, Cao Cao quickly recreated it from his body once

again, returning it to its original state. Six of the [Seven Treasures] now surrounded Sonneillon.

“Shit!”

Sonneillon quickly responded and reached his hand out towards the orbs, but — one of the [Seven Treasures] orbs lit up and created numerous Cao Cao clones. It was [Kahabatei Ratana], the orb that created clones. Sonneillon became confused upon looking at Cao Cao’s clones, leaving him open. His sight also started to get blurry. Not only that, one of the [Seven Treasures] kept flying around him and made him lose his consciousness. The orb changed form and turned into that of a thorn whilst attacking Sonneilon. It took all of Sonneillon’s focus just to dodge all of those. On the other hand, the clones of Cao Cao’s clones wielding spears came to attack Sonneillon. Sonneillon tried to compress all of them at once as he released a huge amount of aura continuously. Even if the clones were to be compressed, it didn’t actually damage Cao Cao or his [Seven Treasures] due to them being mere phantoms.

“Shit! Shit! Shit! What’s wrong with these phantomsss!?”

In the middle of that situation, one of the phantoms — no, the real Cao Cao slipped into his clones and attacked Sonneillon with the tip of his spear before Sonneilon could realise what had happened. Sonneillon’s right shoulder was thrust with the tip of the Holy Spear. A moment later, a large amount of smoke started to float up from the wound.

“G-GAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!”

Sonneillon screamed due to the unbearably excruciating pain. The sound of agony could be heard in response to the absolute damage inflicted by the Holy Spear. To Devils, the damage from the Holy Spear must be on a whole different level. As the damage from the

Holy Spear went through his right shoulder, Sonneillon's right arm fell onto the ground. Still, Sonneillon couldn't bear its pain and was on his knees, lying with his face downward. His consciousness seemed to be hazy because of the pain, rendering him unable to do any attacks.

"Hmph, even though I already activated my [Seven Treasures], it seems like we're about to get to the end with just a few moves. I don't have to use the complete [Balinayaka Ratana]'s abilities."

Even for Sonneillon with his Maou-class aura, he was in his current position because of the damage from the Holy Spear. The ones who were able to deal with this spear with endless burning fighting spirit — the Two Heavenly Dragons, Sairaorg Bael and their comrades, were on a whole different league. ...Although it might be the case that Sonneillon was sensitive to pain due to him just being born not long ago… Still, Cao Cao's rivals consisted of people who were a cut above the rest, making him both enchanted and happy.

"..."

Sonneillon, who regained his consciousness, glared at Cao Cao with eyes full of bloodlust and tears. Once again, he heightened his aura and tried to use his ability, but — Cao Cao mercilessly struck the left arm of Sonneillon who was already on his knees.

"GUHAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!"

Upon receiving the excruciating pain for a second time, Sonneillon collapsed to the ground whilst suffering from the pain. Cao Cao realised that the match was more or less decided after looking at that.

—Cao Cao was unscathed. Sonneillon seemed to have lost his will to fight as his tears came out flowing from his eyes. Cao Cao finally looked at his comrades. As most of the Artificial Devils were

defeated, the fight here was completely won by the Hero Faction. Cao Cao said to Sonneillon,

“Now, what are you going to do? Do you want to be turned into dust with this spear, or do you want to surrender? I was told by my higher-ups that I can let you live if you surrender though.”

Starting from Maou Ajuka Beelzebub, whose position was to guide [DxD], the researchers from various mythologies also had a special interest in the Devils that the Mother of Devils, Lilith, gave birth to, especially Balberith, Verrine, Gressil and Sonneillon. Therefore, he received the order that he could spare their lives if they were to surrender.

—It was at that time. There was a communication magic circle deployed next to Sonneillon’s ear.

Judging from the magic circle’s pattern, it was that of old Olympus magic, so the one who contacted him had to be either Erebus or someone close to him.

“...”

Sonneillon was surprised upon receiving the contact and slowly regained the malice that he lost. He laughed and muttered,

“... Kakakakakakakaka. I figured out the real Urakyoto’s coordinates! I figured it outttt!”

Following that, Sonneillon charged his demonic power on his left arm and fired it at Cao Cao. Cao Cao dodged by jumping backwards, but Sonneillon quickly changed the trajectory to a certain direction.

“And Boom!”

The place he activated it was the pile of the Artificial Devils’ corpses. The corpses were gathered and fixed into one place using

Sonneillon's power. A flesh-sphere was made out of the compressed corpses of the Artificial Devils. Blood and flesh were spurted out as it was being over-compressed.

"You compressed your friends!? What are you planning to do!?"

Following Jeanne's surprised words, a transportation magic circle was suddenly deployed below the sphere made out of corpses. This was also a transportation magic circle made using old Olympus magic. Sonneillon screamed,

"I will use my remaining aura to create a Demonic Power Bomb using the small fries' compressed bodies! —I will teleport this to the Urakyoto town!"

—.

The contact just now had to be from the primordial God Erebus telling him to help prepare the attack as they already found out the coordinates. Although they shouldn't be able to easily teleport things from this pseudo-barrier space that Georg created… The pattern of the transportation magic circle was that of old Olympus' magic. The Primordial God Erebus might've activated the magic through Sonneillon.The chance of it getting through was — certainly not low! It was when the Demonic Power Bomb made out of corpses was about to be engulfed in the transportation light after the activation of the transportation magic circle.

"YOU SHIIIIT!"

Heracles went after the magic circle whilst making his [Balance Breaker] missiles appear throughout his body and stood facing the Demonic Power Bomb. He must've done that to cancel it out using his Balance Breaker attack. Heracles' Sacred Gear and the Demonic Power Bomb created a giant explosion that created a big blast and an earthquake.

“Heracles!”

Cao Cao was surprised in response to his friend who sacrificed himself. He was worried about Heracles’ body. A big crater was formed in the place where the transportation magic circle was deployed. Heracles’ collapsed body could be seen inside that crater. There was smoke coming out of him, but even though he took quite the damage, he was still alive. Sonneillon’s eyes twitched upon looking at that.

“What an idiot. He tried to cancel it out by receiving it head-on.”

Heracles was smiling despite the heavy wounds all over his body.

“... Like hell I’d let you do it. There are people who look forward to the show, you know…”

Heracles fainted on that spot. His comrades quickly rushed to him. On the other hand, Sonneillon with his malice still boiling—

“I’ll make another one!”

He reached his hand out, but when he tried to gather the corpses of the Artificial Devils—

Slash! His left arm was suddenly cut down with a swing from the Holy Spear.

“A-AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!”

Sonneillon screamed in agony. Cao Cao pointed the tip of his spear towards Sonneillon with a cool expression.

“You don’t get another chance. Also, you—”

Cao Cao’s spear was thrust deep into Sonneillon’s chest.

“—will disappear here.”

“E-Even though you are a mere hu—”

Before he could finish his words, Sonneillon turned into dust. After taking care of Sonneillon, Cao Cao quickly rushed to Heracles’ place.

“Are you okay, Heracles?”

Heracles, who was being treated, smiled at Cao Cao,

“Well, considering the trouble that I caused in Kyoto last year…I had to at least do this much.”

Cao Cao had that thought,

I’ve caused a lot of trouble to my comrades and many people because of my selfishness. Despite that, my comrades returned to my side once again. Even those whom I had parted ways with returned to my side. The bad things that I did were tremendous. I have to pay for them for the rest of my life. Still, Siegfried — listen to me. I have my comrades. And there are also people who want to be my [Friend]. I am starting to feel that it might not be bad to use this spear for the sake of those people—.

SLASHDOG. To Become an Irregular Blade Of Endless Night at the Limits of the Dim and Distant

Team [Slash Dog] was already engaged in battle against the group of Artificial Devils — Erebus' group in the mountain that was located at the west side of the pseudo-barrier space that resembled Urakyoto. The [Slash Dog], a.k.a Ikuse Tobio, who was an agent of Grigori as well as a member of [DxD], was facing the giant Devil — Gressil in an open space inside the woods. The shockwaves caused by the clash between supernatural abilities and demonic power due to the fight between his comrades and the Artificial Devils could be seen in the distant sky. Gressil smiled and said to Tobio who was facing him,

"You know, I wanted to fight the Holy Spear guy. If my body can remember the damage from that Holy Spear…doesn't that mean that I'd be one step closer to becoming the strongest?"

Tobio shrugged upon hearing that statement.

"Well, you're lucky. If you were to be sent to Cao Cao's place, then you'd be turned to dust in no time."

Cao Cao, a pure technique-type, would attack him quickly as he knew about Gressil's specialty. He was a guy who focused solely on his opponents, so he must have roughly figured out how to deal with his enemies. Gressil's special ability was called [Resistance] among Tobio's comrades. Tobio also knew about it. The large jet-black Dog who was standing next to Tobio — Jin was glaring at Gressil. Jin was Tobio's Sacred Gear — the Longinus [Canis Lykaon] itself, as well as Tobio's partner and clone/other self. Tobio said this,

"I don't have any intention to play with you for a long time."

He quickly recited the powerful spell—.

<<——Behowlest the slaying of one thousand mortals>>

Ikuse Tobio and the black dog were enshrouded in a jet-black haze. It then spread, covering everything in the surrounding area.

<<——Besingest the slaying of ten thousand goblins>>

Their limbs gradually dissolved into the darkness and turned into something with an abnormal figure.

<<——Mine name, immersed in deepest darkness, tis the Imitation God traversing the Polar Night>>

Tobio's entire body was enveloped in darkness.

<<——O ye, perishest by mine own black blade>>

Although his figure retained some human resemblance, it had become something that differed from a human.

<<——Fools ye art, oh deformed Creator Gods>>

Simultaneously after Tobio recited the last stanza of his chant, his black dog — Jin howled with a clear voice.

'OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOON!'

What appeared there was the humanoid imitation of the God of the Blade that was covered in darkness. After reciting the spell, Tobio's form changed into something that looked like a dog. He also had six tails growing on his back, and his whole body was emitting the aura of darkness. Next to him was the <<Dog>> Blade emitting darkness from its jaw—.

—Balance Breaker, [Night Celestial Slash Dogs]. Tobio, who had transformed into a hunter, took out a weapon that was longer than

him. —A giant scythe radiating black light that was giving off the aura of Darkness. The Longinus [Canis Lykaon] was considered an independent avatar type among Sacred Gears, making the user's other self (in Ikuse's case, it was Jin) to have its own will, which enabled its master to instruct and control it from far away. He could also make various blades appear from shadows and darkness. The giant scythe that Tobio took out was due to the second ability. At the same time, Jin also took out a sword from his own shadows and held it in his mouth. The unusual pattern on the blade part of the sword that Jin had was emitting light. The thing that was carved onto the blade was the forbidden spell. Tobio spun his giant scythe and walked slowly towards Gressil. He said,

[You are really lucky. Not only you didn't meet Cao Cao, but you also got to save your life when you fought against Hyoudou Issei as he couldn't go all out.]

Gressil let out a smile.

"You're talking about his black armor, Dragon Deification, right? Well, that's the one I wanted to fight. If my body remembers the attacks from that, I'll surpass even Balberith and Verrine."

[...What are you going to do once you surpass them? What is it that you seek beyond strength?]

"I don't know. I was just born, you see. I don't know any other choice other than rampaging around if I were to become strong. It seems like Bal and Verrine have something they like other than fighting, but I don't understand them as of now. But…"

Gressil clenched his fist and smiled ominously.

"It's fun to beat the fuck out of both the strong and the weak, you know. I have this thing called overwhelming violence since I was born. That's why I love going on a rampage."

[So that's why you went on a rampage in Kyoto, huh? You know that there were a lot of normal people there, right?]

"? What about them? There are a countless number of Humans, aren't there? Plus, even though they are weak, they reproduce easily. Although I am not Sonneillon, it's not a big deal if we kill them like popping bubble wrap (beep) right?"

[...Every person in the town has their own life. That being said, even after explaining that to you, you wouldn't understand, huh?]

"? Do you want to become a teacher or something? Sorry for you, but I was superior ever since I was born. I don't need things like a teacher."

Tobio prepared himself. There was no need for further questions.

[There are some things that we'd like to know about your birth. However, there is a possibility of your evil intention being fulfilled and harming the people precious to me. That's why, I will cut you down.]

Tobio — began to recite an additional chant.

<<—Behowlest the slaying of principles and tens of thousands of goblins>>

Darkness started to appear in the surrounding area of Tobio and Jin, which then spread, covering the area.

<<We are the imitation of the Polar Night in the farthest abyss>>

The ground, the sky of the pseudo-space of Urakyoto, and everything was engulfed in Darkness that not a single ray of light could reach.

<<We are the Blade God. The Evil Beast. We will become the revolting blade of the endless night in the limits of the dim and distant>>

Black beasts that looked like Jin appeared near Tobio and Jin. They kept appearing one after another, increasing in number until they were the size of a large group. Plus, the countless number of dark Jin that appeared from the ground were also engulfed in Darkness. Among the group's members, Tobio with his scythe and Jin with his sword heightened their aura explosively. This form was acquired through the polishing of his Balance Breaker, [Night Celestial Slash Dogs], which resulted in the achievement of the Abyss Side. —In other words, Balance Breaker Abyss Side — [Perfectus Tenebrae Lykaon et Fortis Densus Laelaps].

Originally, he'd change his form from his human form by using a special chant, but he was now able to change from his [Night Celestial Slash Dogs] by reciting an additional chant. The previous Governor of Grigori, Azazel-sensei, had suggested some possibilities regarding the Balance Breaker of a Sacred Gear.

There was [Crest Side], which was your usual Balance Breaker, including the sub-species ones, with the abilities to either strengthen or evolve. Then, there was [Abyss Side], a phenomenon where the Sacred Gear and its user became one, which happened after the user polished themselves and the Sacred Gear to its limit, and if the user kept wishing for it. The last one was [Ex Side], a new variation that couldn't be categorised into either of those two. The one Tobio had was [Abyss side]. Gressil's expression changed upon looking at that. He became so aroused that his body trembled.

"...You've also used this form in a match, right? I'll surely kick you Longinus users' asses! It's often said to be the incarnation that can kill even Gods! But still!"

Gressil heightened his power explosively,

“Ha!”

At the same time he shouted, the aura enveloping his body was increased dramatically. Tobio knew that he had just removed his limiter. Judging from his aura alone, there was no mistake that he was at least Maou-class. Gressil clenched his fist, took his stance and said,

“That’s what makes it great! It makes me truly feel aliveeeee!”

As he released his aura to his surroundings, Gressil jumped out of his current position. His kick to the ground was so powerful that he managed to make the darkness that was engulfing the ground disappear for an instant. Gressil tried to punch while dashing faster than the ones he did in the match. An unbelievable amount of aura also filled his fist. Tobio and Jin quickly evaded that and swung the large scythe from the side. Jin also followed his partner up by attempting to slash Gressil with the sword of Darkness in his mouth. Gressil jumped mid-air and managed to evade Tobio’s giant scythe. The sword came after that, but — Gressil stopped the Dog’s sword by clasping his hands. After stopping Jin’s sword, he reached the ground and threw it violently. Jin fixed his stance mid-air and arrived at the ground without any problems.

—It seems like his physical abilities increase every time he fights.

That’s what Tobio thought of Gressil deep in his heart. He managed to easily dodge the combination attack of Tobio and Jin. He must’ve become familiar with his moves after watching the recordings of the Rating Game World Tournament matches. Whilst Tobio had also seen Gressil’s match…he felt like Gressil was stronger compared to that time. Tobio directed his index finger and middle finger towards Gressil. As he did, the beasts that looked similar to Jin — no, the

group of black beasts that exactly looked like Jin started to charge towards Gressil. Like Jin, the black beasts were also holding swords with spells engraved on them using their mouths.

“Hah! Interesting!”

Gressil took the beasts who charged at him with high-speed head-on and sent them flying using his fists and kicks that were filled with a big amount of aura. The beasts who were sent flying disappeared into the shadows, but they soon reemerged and attacked Gressil once again. However, Gressil was able to dodge the attacks of the black beasts who came at him with high speed and his great defensive body movements. On top of that, he took the initiative and annihilated the first black beasts that came at him as he adapted to the situation.

“Oryaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

Gressil charged an enormous amount of aura and punched the ground. The powerful force made the darkness disappear and shattered a wide area of the ground. Tobio and Jin flew to the sky as the ground trembled severely due to the vigorous force.

—An unbelievably giant crater was created below them. The violent punch that was filled with aura managed to create this much force… If that punch were to be repeated several more times, the ground would surely change.

As Tobio and Jin descended to the ground, they hid their presence silently and approached Gressil. Tobio lowered himself and raised his scythe that almost touched the ground upwards. Jin also went towards Gressil’s back and swung the sword in his mouth in a straight line. Gressil responded by deflecting Tobio’s scythe first and managed to evade nicely as he turned and rotated his body in order to avoid Jin’s attack. Gressil continued by trying to punch Tobio with

his left hand, but Tobio quickly jumped backwards and disappeared into the darkness. The same went for Jin as he suddenly jumped into the darkness and hid himself. In response to the two beasts that hid their presence, Gressil widened his field of view and looked at his surroundings. Suddenly, Jin flew towards Gressil at a high-speed from behind him like a black bullet. Gressil grasped his slight presence and rotated his body a bit as he tried to backhand chop Jin. However, Tobio knew the situation from the darkness and made a distorted blade appear between Gressil and Jin, securing Gressil's blind spot for a moment.

"This won't stop me!"

Whilst the blade was destroyed by a single punch from Gressil, Jin had already disappeared from that place. It was because the moment before Jin attacked, he slipped into the darkness along with the appearance of the blade.

"If that's the case, then I'll destroy the whole thing!"

Gressil gathered an enormous amount of aura and punched the ground that was covered in darkness. The vigorous punch made the darkness disappear at once and shattered a large area of the ground like before. The ground then trembled and a giant crater was made once again thanks to Gressil. The Beast of Darkness — Tobio jumped upwards and descended down whilst holding his scythe! Gressil tried to welcome his enemy on top of him with an uppercut. But the body of the Beast of Darkness, aka Tobio, seemed to disperse into the darkness, and once it re-emerged from the darkness, it turned into a number of his other self, aka Jin. Of course, all of them were holding the swords with a forbidden spell engraved on them in their mouth. Gressil's uppercut managed to only hit the sky as Tobio's body was dispersed and turned into several Jin. All the Jins then slashed, slashed, slashed, and slashed Gressil with their swords!

“Gaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

Gressil screamed in agony as he didn’t expect a number of Jins to slash him. That being said, Gressil quickly regained the will to do a counter-attack and tried to attack them with his fist filled with aura, but — a moment later, the Beast of Darkness — Tobio emerged from the ground of darkness on his side. Tobio, whose appearance made Gressil dumbfounded, jumped at him whilst rotating his body and slashed Gressil’s body in a circular direction. The attack from Jin before plus Tobio’s circular slash left out scars on Gressil’s whole body. Blood gushed out from throughout his body.

“Shit!”

Gressil who was damaged tried to kick Tobio’s middle body, but as he dispersed his body into the darkness once again, the attack missed.

“Wow, my attacks aren’t connecting at all!”

Gressil’s anger was shown on his face. He was slowly losing his cool as his attacks weren’t connecting at all. Even if they hit, Tobio would just disperse and turn into beasts of darkness, leaving him unscathed. The darkness gathered and created Tobio’s form. Tobio spun his scythe and said,

[Those who are able to damage me are either **real Maou-class** or God-class. Those below them won’t be able to surpass my darkness.]

“...!”

Gressil became so mad that his veins showed on his face in response to Tobio’s provocation. However, Gressil let out a sigh and managed to regain his cool. He then smiled and said to Tobio,

“But still, my body has remembered your blade, you know? Your attacks won’t work on me anymore.”

Gressil forcefully closed his wounds using his muscles, stopping the blood from coming out.

“Ha!”

Gressil enveloped his body with his aura and jumped out from his place vigorously. Tobio took out another scythe from the darkness below him and prepared himself against Gressil using two scythes. Gressil punched Tobio with a giant swing, but Tobio dodged sideways. However, the shockwave due to the aura from his punch sent the darkness, as well as the trees and the scenery behind Tobio, flying. Gressil continued by landing a kick on Tobio’s torso, but Tobio managed to avoid it as well by lowering his body to the point where he almost touched the ground. Gressil tried to punch downwards, but yet again, Tobio rotated sideways and managed to evade that. Once he fixed his stance, Tobio attacked Gressil by swinging his two scythes at the same time.

Gressil, whose body had remembered Tobio’s blade thanks to his [Resistance], took it head on with a relaxed expression. —However, Tobio’s two scythes damaged Gressil and left an X mark on his body. The X mark that was engraved deeply into Gressil’s chest gushed out a big amount of blood.

“A-AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!”

Gressil screamed out in pain. He looked surprised whilst supporting his chest that kept bleeding out.

“Wh…!? H-How did the blade go through!?”

Tobio stuck one of his scythes to the ground and created another scythe with his hand. The aura that it was emitting was different from the first ones. Tobio said,

[My blades have plenty of aura wavelengths, you see. The one that you remembered was just one of them. —Well then.]

Tobio once again held two of his scythes and slowly walked forward. A pack of his other self, Jin, appeared behind him. Tobio gazed sharply and said,

[I now know the conditions for my blade to work on you.]

It was not only Gressil who was able to remember the enemy's attack or specialty, as Tobio could also change the quality of his blades depending on the enemy. After all, his blades were able to cut even Gods, and were even said to be able to [cut all kinds of things]. A cursed black and crimson flame started to appear in Tobio's scythes. Lykaon, the king of the Paradise [Arcadia] of Greek mythology that was said to be the true ancestor of werewolves, as well as the Godly Sword that appeared in Japanese mythology [Ame no Ohabari], dwelled in his [Canis Lykaon]. Those two had distorted and merged into a Sacred Gear, becoming a Longinus. Because of the distortion, he had turned into a dog instead of a wolf—. He had turned into a false God—. The cursed black and crimson flames that dwelled in his scythe was the same as the one that dwelled in [Ame no Ohabari] when it cut the God of Fire Hinokagutsuchi. It was said to be the byproduct.

As Tobio walked towards Gressil, the pack of Jin charged forward like bullets, attacking Gressil. Gressil, on the other hand, defeated one after another with his punches and kicks, but he was still overwhelmed by the group's attacks and received some of the attacks thoroughly. There were cuts all over Gressil's body. Following

that, Tobio prepared to finish off Gressil with the two scythes that were enveloped in the dense cursed flames.

[Your [specialty] is on a whole different level. But…]

Gressil's body was attacked countless times by the two scythes at a unperceivable speed. On top of that, the black dog — Jin simultaneously cut down in a straight line as he descended from the sky. A moment later, countless cuts could be seen on Gressil's body.

[—Our blades can cut anything.]

Gressil let out his last words.

"...So I…couldn't become like…Balberith or Verrine, huh…"

Bo! Gressil collapsed as his body was badly injured due to the countless cuts and was incinerated by the cursed flames. Tobio said whilst looking at Gressil's last moment.

[Power-wise, you're already like them. However, you can't become a true [Transcendental Being] just by raw power and demonic power alone.]

After the fight ended, Tobio undid the darkness space that was covering the area, returning it to its former forest scenery.

—As he had such thoughts, it began to snow a little. He also felt cold. It seemed like his comrade, Lavinia Reni, was using her Sacred Gear and had turned the place into a world of ice somewhere. If that's the case, the total destruction of the group of Artificial Devils was inevitable. As the fight had ended, Tobio's partner, Jin came to his side. The other Jins had also disappeared, leaving him alone. After Tobio patted Jin's head, his comrade, Minagawa Natsume's breathing could be seen as she rushed to his side from far away.

"Tobio! Has it ended?"

[Yeah. I've defeated Gressil.]

Once Natsume got closer, she reported to Tobio.

"We're also finished. Lavinia too. Shiroguronero used a dirty attack on the enemies after all."

It seemed like they were able to defeat one of the targets, Gressil and the group of Artificial Devils around him. It was at that time after they took a breath and thought of joining the other members of [DxD]. A communication magic circle was deployed next to Tobio and Natsume's ear, with Georg, who was outside the pseudo-space, contacting them.

[[—!]]

The two of them looked grim after hearing that. Natsume screamed,

"Tobio! The enemy's Devils have infiltrated the Youkai forest in the vicinity of Kyoto!"

That's right, the contact just now was reporting the incident that was happening in the human world. The Youkai forest in the vicinity of Kyoto was being attacked—.

Fan

In a Youkai-inhabited village somewhere between certain mountains in the vicinity of Kyoto, a special showroom selling [Chichiryuutei Oppai Dragon] goods for the Youkais and other supernatural beings was set up. The limited goods that could only be obtained in the event venue in Urakyoto were sold here so that those who weren't able to get tickets to the event could also get them. A long queue to the showroom was made not long after as the youkai fans and other supernatural beings waited for their turn.

The figure of Balberith (he was also wearing his Oppai Dragon hat properly) from team [Black Satan of Darkness Dragon King], as well as his leader, the High-class Grim Reaper Zeno, could be seen among those who were queuing. The reason why Balberith was here was that he wanted to get his hands on the limited action figure goods [Oppai Dragon Dororon Youkai Clear Version]. Zeno stuck with him as he couldn't let Balberith go by himself. The long queue line that they were in slowly moved. Balberith's chest throbbed every time he moved.

—Balberith knew. He knew just how hard it was to get a [Chichiryuutei Oppai Dragon] limited action figure. The first time he went to the show event, he wasn't able to get the limited figure that was sold in the venue. —No, **he couldn't buy it**. It was when he went to the store before the show started. They were no longer selling the limited figure. It was completely sold out. He had just learned in that place that he had to queue if he wanted to get the limited figure. He learned that due to the popularity, getting the limited event figure was a competition. When he went to the show for the second time, he quickly went to the venue and queued in line for the first time in his life. However—

“We are very sorry but the limited edition figure has just been sold out.”

“—!?”

The limited edition figure was sold out before his very eyes—. The child was smiling as he was lucky enough to get the last limited edition figure. Balberith’s eyes were filled with envy upon looking at the sight and he grit his teeth watching the thing he wanted most go. That’s right, that was the first time Balberith had experienced defeat. Even when he lost to [Babel Belial] in the Rating Game World Tournament match, he didn’t have the feeling he had right now as he couldn’t even understand the concept of ‘losing’. However, not being able to buy the figure gave him his first taste of defeat. This time, his third time — he had already lined up hours before the shop opened and waited with all his heart. And, it was finally his turn—.

“O-Oppai Dragon…Dororon Y-Youkai Clear Version… Please.”

Balberith’s voice was shaky as he was very nervous in front of the cashier.

“All right, coming right up.”

As the Karasutengu shop assistant received the order, it put his order into a bag and calculated the total price. Balberith then received his items and left the cashier. Balberith was dumbfounded for a moment in response to the real thing in his hands. He opened the bag a little bit and in it was — the limited edition action figure that he had been dreaming of and yearned for. It was not a dream, it was real. Balberith had finally got his hands on the [Oppai Dragon Dororon Youkai Clear Version]. He found that the clear and see-through armor material was beautiful. The happiness and satisfaction that he felt couldn’t be described in words. —Balberith learned the meaning

of victory from the bottom of his heart for the first time on that occasion.

<<Well, let's return home.>>

That's what Zeno said after accompanying him until he was finished. It was when they finished their errands and developing a transportation magic circle so that they could return.

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

A piercing explosive sound could be heard from the village's entrance. The screams of the Youkai soon followed after that.

"Uwaaaaaa! The Devils are attacking!"

Whilst the Youkai were running and trying to escape, Balberith who heard the ruckus, on the other hand, went towards the place where the explosive sounds continued.

<<H-Hey, Balberith! Don't act recklessly! We are from the Netherworld! If you do something that stands out, we don't know what'll happen later!>>

Even after Zeno desperately tried to stop him, Balberith didn't mind him and went to the place where the Devils were attacking instead. In that place — the group of Devils enveloped in their own aura were attacking and destroying the shops in the village. Judging from the aura, Balberith knew that these guys were born like the way he was. He believed that they had to be acting on orders from the Netherworld...either from Hades or one of his partners. ...The fact that Gressil and Sonneillon were persuaded by the primordial God Erebus meant that this might have something to do with them. Although Balberith hadn't heard of this yet, that's what he felt. On the other hand, Zeno was…

<<Unbelievable, the Lilith Children are here! That means, this must be Hades-sama's…no, is it the doing of the infamous God Erebus?>>

That's what he said. However, Zeno had a confused look on his face. That being said, Balberith had small interest in the current condition. He thought that he'd capture one of them and get some information. But it was at that time when he had such thoughts.

"Uwaaaaaaaan! My Oppai Dragooooooon!"

He could hear the children's screams.

As he looked over that way — one of the Devils stepped on the [Oppai Dragon Dororon Youkai Clear Version] figure that the kid just bought and broke it to pieces. In that instance — there was something within Balberith that increased drastically. The feeling he couldn't hold back any longer raised up from within him. —Balberith knew. He knew just how hard it was to get a [Chichiryuutei Oppai Dragon] limited action figure. Balberith understood the indescribable happiness and satisfaction that one felt after getting that. However, the Devils were laughing unpleasantly in response to the Youkai kid whose figure was destroyed.

"He cried just because his small figure was destroyed."

[Gahahahaha!]

Suddenly, Balberith stood before the group of Devils.

"Hey!"

Balberith called upon the Devils with a raised voice.

"Huh? What do you want?"

The Devils made a provocative face. Balberith asked the Devils whilst pointing at the destroyed figure.

“That figure, do you guys know just how important it is?”

The Devils were surprised in response to his words, but a moment later — they had a big laugh.

[Gyahahahahahahahaha!]

“What’s wrong with this guy? The fuck is he saying?”

“This guy has a screw loose!”

They ridiculed Balberith’s words. Whilst sneering at his words, one of the Devils gathered aura on his hand and tried to fire it at Balberith.

“He’s a strange guy. Well, whatever. Let’s just send him—”

Pow! Before the Devil could finish his words, Balberith punched him. The Devil who took Balberith’s punch was sent flying backward quite far away. A dense aura started oozing out from Balberith’s body as he asked the Devils.

“I’ll ask once again. Do you guys know how important that thing is?”

One of the Devils seemed to find him familiar after looking at Balberith—.

“Hey, I’ve seen this guy—”

Before that Devil could finish his words, he was also taken out by Balberith’s punch. The Devils started to shudder after looking at Balberith, who took out two Devils with just a punch. However, Balberith’s anger hadn’t abated.

“Don’t call it ‘small’. This thing… do you guys know how important this is for those who bought it?”

“S-Shit! W-What are you say—”

This was the third Devil who was sent flying backwards by Balberith's punch. The match was one-sided. This emotion — the anger that Balberith couldn't hold back manifested and trampled the group of Devils. He sent the Devils flying away with his punches, kicks and aura bullets. Those who were afraid of Balberith's strength and tried to run away were also shot down by the aura bullets that Balberith fired from far away. The group of Devils was totally annihilated within a minute or two.

<<Unbelievable…! How should I explain this to the higher-ups? He secretly came to buy a figure and this turned into trouble!?>>

His leader, Zeno, was thinking about the situation and expressed his confusion. —It was at that time. There were several figures who descended in the middle of the village from the sky. A humanoid monkey youkai, a humanoid pig youkai, and a mountain man youkai. Balberith had seen them before. They were members of the [Journey to the West] team who also participated in the Rating Game World Tournament, Victorious Fighting Buddha [First-gen Son Wukong], Cleanser of the Altars [First-gen Zhu Bajie], Golden-bodied Arhat [First-gen Sha Wujing]. They were the beings who were said to be essential research subjects by Zeno. The monkey youkai — First-gen Sun Wukong looked around the village, smoked from his pipe and said,

"Kakaka, it seemed like the artificial Devils have been annihilated while we were not here."

The fat pig youkai — First-gen Zhu Bajie let out a sigh.

"Yeah. We came here because we heard the village was attacked. Did Nezha come and help to defeat the Devils around this village?"

The hermit youkai — First Gen Sha Wujing put the amulet that seemed to function as a way to communicate on his ear and said.

“Hey, it seems like they’ve also finished quickly over there. The artificial Devils won’t stand a chance against Nezha.”

The three Youkai seemed to be bored. —Suddenly, there was a Devil who tried to run without anyone noticing him. However, First-gen Sun Wukong extended his Ruyi Bang without moving his body and defeated the Devil with just one attack. Even Balberith knew that these three youkai were so strong that he couldn’t find even the slightest opening. First-gen Sun Wukong seemed to have noticed their presence as he looked over at Balberith and Zeno. The moment Zeno was looked at, he could be seen trembling in fear. First-gen Sun Wukong said,

“Aren’t you guys… the members of the team with the long name? What are the people of Netherworld doing here?”

Zeno desperately answered,

<<W-W-We came here to buy a figure!>>

“What is that?”

First-gen Zhu Bajie tilted his head curiously. First-gen Sun Wukong looked at the youkai kid’s figure that was stomped to bits by the Devils.

“Is this what a figure is? Why does a Grim Reaper want such thing? You guys must have some connection to the Devils that attacked here, right?”

<<N-No, no, no, no, no, no, no! I completely don’t know anything about them! I-It’s true! Balberith and I just came here to buy a figure!>>

Zeno panicked after being asked by the well-known main figures of the Journey to the West. On the other hand, Balberith didn’t mind

Zeno's situation as he started to move on his own and walked towards the youkai kid who was crying due to his figure being destroyed. The kid was afraid upon looking at Balberith's intense aura, but—. Balberith gave out the figure that he had just bought to the kid.

"—Here. Take it…"

—Balberith knew. He knew just how hard it was to get a [Chichiryuutei Oppai Dragon] limited action figure.

"What?"

Balberith responded to the surprised kid.

"This…I give. That's why…don't cry."

Balberith wanted to give his own figure to the kid. The kid was also a fan of [Oppai Dragon], and he also lined up in the same queue… He was the same as Balberith. That's why Balberith thought of giving his figure to him. The kid received the unboxed figure and asked.

"...Is it okay?"

Balberith nodded.

"Yeah. This [Oppai Dragon] figure is a very important thing. I understand that. You worked hard and lined up in the queue. It's only obvious that you should have this. That's why, don't cry."

The kid finally smiled in response to Balberith's words.

"Thank you, onii-chan!"

The youkai who seemed to be the kid's parents came rushing.

"U-Uhm, thank you very much!"

As the parents expressed their gratitude, they took the child and went to the village. After the kid disappeared from his eyes, a feeling inside Balberith welled up. —A certain feeling inside Balberith arose in his heart. Balberith, without a doubt, had just lost something important to him right now.

“...”

Balberith was—. He couldn’t hold back the feelings that filled his heart.

“...Uuuuu, uuuu.”

An endless stream of tears came out flowing from his eyes. He was finally able to buy the figure. After having his first taste of defeat (completely sold), he made an effort so he could win (buy it).

And then, he gave away the beautiful figure that he had. However, he thought it was okay. He wanted to believe that it was okay.

—My body is bigger than the kid.

The one with the bigger body had to endure it. And above all, the kid was also an [Oppai Dragon] fan like him. Still — Balberith wasn't able to hold back his tears. This was the first time Balberith felt [Sadness] in his life. [Chichiryuutei Oppai Dragon] made him, an artificial transcendental being, taste various feelings—. First-gen Sun Wukong said after looking at Balberith,

"... I don't really understand... I don't really understand, but Grim Reaper-san, I'll believe what you said."

Balberith and Zeno weren't questioned any further. Plus, the only report made to the people of [DxD] was that the village was saved—.

Life.4 As the Deterrence for the World — AxA—

I, Hyoudou Issei, teleported to the pseudo-space barrier along with Rias, the Gremory peerage (+ my peerage!), and Yasaka-san (+ the Youkai who were confident in their strength), and we have already started fighting against the group of Devils from the Realm of the Dead! The place we teleported to was an ancient ritual spot located in the northern part of pseudo Urakyoto. There were stone altars, pillars, and huge boulders with Shimenawa[1] attached to them. I knew it because I visited this place when we were exploring the real Urakyoto a little, and I heard that this was the place where the leaders who managed Urakyoto had been telling fortunes of good and ill omens and receiving revelations from Gods and Buddhas revered in Kyoto for generations. In other words, although it was a pseudo-space, we had teleported to a very important place in Urakyoto. Immediately after teleporting, we encountered a group of enemies and entered a state of combat, beating up the Artificial Devils. The combination of the two swordswomen, Xenovia with a Dual Swords style using the Holy Sword Durandal and the Holy Sword Excalibur, and Irina, who used the Holy Sword Hauteclere, was slaughtering the Artificial Devils in an excellent combination of sword attacks.

"It's my specialty to hunt Devils after all!"

"Saying that as you are now is kind of amazing!”

"They are our enemies, so that’s not a problem!"

Saying that, she vastly increased the holy aura around her blade and started cutting left and right, turning the Artificial Devils into dust. Meanwhile, Akeno-san was wearing the Oni mask while lightning covered her body.

"Ibaraki-Dōji-sama, Ura-sama, please show us all of your powers."

The legendary Onis that Akeno-san had contracted with — Ibaraki-Dōji and Ura, crushed, smashed and kicked the flying Artificial Devils with their monstrous strength. In addition, there was holy lightning, lightning with a great deal of light added to it, fired by Akeno-san pouring down, so I guess it’s not something you can withstand!

“Fafnir-san! Do your best, please!”

[Asia-tan is cheering for me. I will give my super best.]

The golden Dragon King Fafnir, summoned by Asia, mowed down the attacking Devils with his tail and blew them away with an aura blast from his mouth. There was a limit to the use of Fafnir in Rating Games, but if it’s a real fight where there were no such rules, he could go on a rampage. With cheering (and panties) from Asia, it looked like he would do his best infinitely!

"Disappear!"

Rias unleashed a dense sphere of aura that compressed the Power of Destruction towards a group of enemies! Cladding herself with the Power of Destruction, as her words suggested, she would erase the Artificial Devils.

This time, as Gasper was in the real Urakyoto, she wouldn’t be able to use [Forbidden Invade Balor the Princess], so she had her whole body clad in Dividing Wyvern Fairy’s [Crimson Extinct Dragonar] armour (so this time, Xenovia was not wearing the Wyverns' armour). Rias originally had a lot of talent and participated in the tournament, experiencing battles with strong enemies, so the power of her destruction aura increased. The Sekiryuutei's power was also added to that. Manipulating the Power of Destruction, she shot out an extra-large lump of aura above the enemy and rained small spheres down on the group of Devils. The Artificial Devils

disappeared without being able to do anything when attacked by the rain-like Power of Destruction. It was a feat that could be done because it was densely packed.

On the battlefield where my comrades defeated the Artificial Devils, something super-fast instantly turned the enemy into dust. It was Kiba, who ran through the battlefield at a speed that couldn't be captured by the naked eye. He had activated [Blade Blacksmith] and had created a single Holy Sword brimming with holy aura with his Sacred Gear, hacking the Artificial Devils at great speed. Knights wearing armor resembling a Dragon followed him.

—This was the Balance Breaker of Kiba's [Blade Blacksmith], one of Kiba's Sacred Gears, [Glory Drag Trooper]. The group of Draconic Knights used by Kiba also had Holy Swords and slashed the Artificial Devils. While using the Balance Breaker from [Blade Blacksmith], he couldn't activate his other Sacred Gear, [Sword Birth]'s Balance Breaker, [Sword of Betrayer].

...But I noticed recently that Kiba had been exploring the possibility of merging the two Sacred Gears, even though that should be impossible. However, we had overcome many impossible things and Sacred Gears were made stronger by the power of feelings. If that happened, he would get even stronger…

I was wearing my crimson armour and blasting Artificial Devils with my Dragon Shots. While me and my companions were in great activity, the one who was making the Artificial Devils tremble in fear was — a golden beast with nine tails. Yasaka-san had turned into her original form of a huge nine-tailed fox.

[I will not forgive anyone who casts darkness onto the ancient city!]

She exhaled a high-powered flame from her mouth and burned the Artificial Devils at once. There was a person who skipped on Yasaka-san's head. —It was Kunou.

"As expected! Haha-ue!”

Like, Kunou followed us on the teleport, and ended up on the battlefield with us. However, even though Kunou had a young body, she was clad in a powerful Youki, and her golden hair had turned white. This was something that showed a glimpse of the Divine Beasts, Masaki Gitsune.

Kunou added her own aura on Yasaka-san, increasing her mother's Youkai power. It was a mother-daughter combination. Youkai who were proud of their strength also fought right next to Yasaka-san. While we were fighting the group of Artificial Devils, Rias and Yasaka-san shouted at me.

“Ise! Fight Erebus with Ddraig!”

[That's right! We are enough here!]

Kunou shouted too,

"Go, Ise!"

She gave me reassuring words.

I said, "Got it!", and flew towards the altar — a huge rock in the depths of the ritual place... Ah, that's right. It was as Rias and the others said. It was already pretty obvious where Erebus was hiding. Since before, I couldn’t help but feel a super huge aura coming from the direction of the altar, after all. As I flew through the sky, I spoke a powerful chant.

“—The Crimson Red Dragon dwelling within me, awaken from your dominance”

A dazzling crimson glow came from the jewel on the right arm.

[—The Crimson Heavenly Dragon I possess within me, rise up to become a King and roar]

Ophis's voice was heard from the jewel, A completely black aura overflowed from the jewel on the left arm gauntlet.

[—The jet-black God of Infinity]

The extreme aura tinged with deep crimson surrounded my entire body.

"—The glorious God of Dreams"

The black aura representing infinity covered me even more.

"[—Watch over the false forbidden existence we shall become that transcends the boundaries]"

The armor of the True Queen became tinged with jet black, coming to embody the "Infinite" of the Dragon God. Ophis and I sang the last passage together—

"[—Thou shalt dance like radiance within our inferno!]"

"<<[D∞D !! D∞DD∞D!! D∞DD∞DD∞D!!!!
D∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞D!!!!!!
D∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞D!!!!!!!!]
>>"

From the jewels of the whole body, "D∞D!!" echoed loudly. The symbol that meant infinity appeared on the jewels ∞.

"<<[Dragon Infinity Drive!!!!!!]>>"

My Dragon Deification was complete along with the voice. At the same time, the countdown for Ddraig's manifestation began. I went to the altar and said out loud.

"You're here, right? Primordial God-sama!"

When I said this — the space above the giant rock was distorted and a hole was drilled while sparking. From the hole, a pitch-black aura filled with darkness flowed.

[The opponents of me, Erebus, are…the two Sekiryuutei, huh?]

The person who came out of the hole in space was a young man with black hair, light black armor and a black cloak. Perhaps in his mid-twenties. This was one of the Primordial Gods, the God of Darkness, Erebus… I shrugged my shoulders.

"Are you saying that we're not worthy opponents, is that it?"

Erebus raised the tip of his mouth.

[No, you are a threat. Every time I watch the recordings of your games, it makes me tremble.]

As soon as he finished speaking, Erebus hurled a dark mass of aura towards me. The God's aura of darkness had been compressed to an overwhelming extent. But I responded with my fist and repelled it in another direction. The aura that was repelled flew far away in a different direction, causing a phenomenon of black expansion. It must have happened when the black aura I repelled hit the ground. Seeing this, Erebus clicked his tongue.

[...You repelled a blow from a God. For an ordinary Devil, it has the power to blow up dozens...or even hundreds of them. I wonder what's going on with these things called Longinus.]

“Recently, I have dealt with Gods more often after all. I’m not missing my harsh daily training, you know.”

[An ex-human who defeats Gods by training, huh? The jokes are also reaching a scary level.]

I said to Erebus.

"If you stop your evil acts against Enma-sama and surrender, I was told by the superiors that we can stop the battle. So, what are you going to do?"

When he heard my words, Erebus’ eyes slightly quivered.

[—Yama—Enma refused our invitation. If Enma joined, this alliance would have been powerful. But I also thought of this. While interfering with Enma, I will deal a big blow to this country and to you too.]

"So, you are using ley lines and the ojizō-san to get Japan out of order?"

[Typical of a God, right? This Erebus is not that good at fighting, but with tricks, I am very good.]

“...I will ask again. Are you going to surrender?”

Erebus narrowed his eyes at my second question.

[You are the hated dragon that soiled my little sister Nyx. It would be better if you disappeared into the darkness.]

"—I understand."

The warning was ignored. It was enough. If you don’t defeat guys like him quickly, they’ll surely do something bad. Shalba, Euclid, Rizevim and the legendary Evil Dragons were all like that. Anyway, it's wiser to beat them up quickly. These guys' fangs can easily reach my loved

ones after all. So, there shouldn’t be any leeway for them to do that. I jumped forward, releasing a lot of deep black crimson aura from the rear impeller. Erebus smiled upon seeing that.

[A head-on attack without tricks, huh!]

Darkness gathered in Erebus’ hand and became something like a barrier, but I punched it with all my might without paying any heed!

"<<[D∞D!! D∞DD∞D!! D∞DD∞DD∞D!!!!
D∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞D!!!!!!
D∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞D!!!!!!!!]
>>"

From the jewels on my armor, this sound echoed and my power increased explosively with Doubling. I already used [Penetrate], so I passed through the barrier of darkness without difficulty and a straight punch with my right arm flew to Erebus. Erebus defended with his left arm, but my right punch repelled the defense. I spun my body on the thrust of the punch and gave Erebus a high left kick. Erebus, with the movement only of the upper body, avoided my kick, and finding an opening, tried to shoot an aura of darkness — but the tail of the armor stretched and, conversely, caught Erebus off guard. From the tip of the tail, Ascalon's third blade was revealed and tried to pierce him, but Erebus stopped it with the aura that remained in his hand and jumped back once.

When the attack of Erebus’s aura hit me, the part of armour where it landed got cracked and a strong shock was transmitted to the interior...! If it hit the same spot many times, it looked like I was going to suffer serious damage! Right after that, Erebus flew into the sky as if changing locations; I also chased him. However, Erebus suddenly turned to me in midair. While doing that, he raised his divine aura on both hands to the extreme, and then released it towards me at once. From the cannons stored in the four wings, I

removed the cannons from the two lower wings under the arm. While holding them with my hands, I gathered aura at the cannons' muzzles! Opposing Erebus's aura barrage, I also released a vast amount of aura from the two cannons!

Gooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooonn!!

The moment the Primordial God's and Dragon Deification's auras collided, the explosion and the impact from it instantly turned the whole area into scorched earth! The shock was transmitted even through the armour and the pain ran through my body! Erebus fired an aura of darkness towards me as he flew in the sky. I dealt with the aura of the God as I held the cannons extending from under my arm in my hand. I kept launching small yet powerful aura bullets, offsetting every shot by Erebus. Occasionally, an attack from Erebus's aura would hit me, blowing off a part of my armour, but I immediately rebuilt it with the aura and began to repair the armor. Naturally, the impact of the aura's attack resonated within the armor, so the damage to the body was building up more and more. Erebus said this while I was fighting an aura cannon battle with him.

[Despite having so much strength, why are you playing the children's...make-believe hero!?]

"It just happened to become necessary while getting to where I stand now!"

While both of us lacked the deciding move, it once again became a close fight. I made Ascalon and Ascalon II appear in both hands, together with the tail Ascalon, I started a battle with both arms, legs and a tail! Erebus kept talking as he dodged my punches with Ascalon, kicks and tail thrusts with Ascalon. Every time Erebus dodged my attacks, he looked more uneasy.

[…Ku! What a dense aura! If you receive it directly, it will be the end! That explains Nyx being defeated!]

"Yes! How about defeating you like your little sister?!”

[However, the current Sekiryuutei! Even though you have all that strength, why don't you try to achieve domination!?]

"What are you talking about!?"

[I heard you can obtain the power to control the Devils, reign as king, and destroy other mythological systems!]

"I have no interest in something like that!!"

[Why!? It's a power capable of slaughtering even Gods, you know!? The chosen! You can become a king, or a God! You can also satiate the lust you are so fond of to your heart’s content!]

I — ejected Ascalon II from the right gauntlet! Erebus easily dodged the flying sword, but I shot Ascalon from the left gauntlet in succession! Erebus evaded this too by twisting his body. But I didn't care, as I fired many Dragon Shots at Erebus. But even that move got easily dodged by Erebus. Erebus said with a sneer, as if to ridicule me.

[Fuhahaa! I have seen at least your attacks on the match videos. This technique I saw in the battle with Vidar!]

Yes, yes, I knew that. The Dragon Shot that he dodged hit Ascalon II that was flying ahead, changing the trajectory. Ascalon II, whose trajectory changed, hit another Ascalon, and its trajectory changed too. Then it got hit by yet another Dragon Shot — the Ascalon that was ejected from the left gauntlet, after changing its trajectory, returned to Erebus, approaching diagonally from behind him! Just

before he got hit, Erebus noticed a sign of the holy aura and looked in the direction of Ascalon returning.

—Here! I stretched Ascalon's tail and tried to stab Erebus when he showed an opening. Erebus somehow managed to evade the returning Ascalon by twisting his body, but — the Ascalon that was dodged went right back to my left arm. Erebus somehow managed to repel Ascalon from the tail that was coming at him with an aura-filled hand. —Thump! Once again, the Ascalon that had returned to the left gauntlet pierced deeply into Erebus's abdomen.

[Gnu!]

Erebus let out a voice of agony. After pulling Ascalon, I spoke while punching Erebus in the face.

“Devils, Fallen Angels, and Dragons too. All of them are companions. Isn't that awesome?! And I am — Oppai Dragon, who’s both a Devil and a Dragon! I will definitely beat the bastards that endanger the children!!”

At the same time I shouted, I spread the four wings at a very close distance and pointed the four guns forward. The aura of infinity gathered at the four guns.

Douuuuuunnn...

The aura built up and the cannons rumbled. And then, I fired all four cannons at once!

"<<[D∞D!! D∞DD∞D!! D∞DD∞DD∞D!!!!
D∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞D!!!!!!
D∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞DD∞D!!!!!!!!]
>>"

I screamed along with the voice echoing from jewels!

“∞ Blasteeeeeer!”

The aura that was raised to the extreme was fired from the cannons while furnished with [Penetrate]. Erebus bathed in it head-on. The ∞ Blaster's aura hit the floor of pseudo-space and, along with a massive explosion, an extreme aura pillar with a combination of deep crimson and jet black was lifted high into the sky. The remnants of the deep black crimson aura were spreading everywhere. When the fumes cleared, a large crater was born before me. I descended to the center of the crater. The moment I got down, I got dizzy and stumbled... I was out of breath.

…What was that 'I'm not that good at fighting'? Obviously, if it wasn't for Dragon Deification’s armour, I would’ve died long ago.

Just from the impacts of Erebus’s aura attacks, I couldn’t help but feel an intense pain all over my body... Erebus himself was down, and there were no signs of him getting up. ...The suppression of Erebus was over, I guess? What about Gressil and Sonneillon, I wonder? Cao Cao and the [Slash Dog] team… It happened when I was thinking about that. Bac![2] Erebus raised his upper body only and pointed his hand toward me! —My whole body got enveloped in an aura of darkness!

"Kuu!"

I immediately launched a Dragon Shot towards Erebus!

[Guh!]

This time for sure, Erebus lied powerless, completely without his aura. However, he said with a laugh at the end.

[Fufufu... I told you I was good at tricks.]

After saying just that, Erebus lost consciousness.... What did that mean? However, Erebus seemed to have completely lost consciousness, so I formed a magic circle for communication close to my ear and reported to my companions about the defeat of Erebus. Soon after, Rias and the others, who had annihilated the Artificial Devils, joined me. Apparently, the Hero Faction and the [Slash Dog] team seemed to have successfully defeated Sonneillon and Gressil respectively, and they were coming here. I tied the passed-out Erebus with a special magic rope so that he wouldn't be able to escape. Gressil and Sonneillon disappeared without leaving a trace, so bringing the tied-up Erebus back to the original space would be the end of the mission, I think.

"Now then, we should get in touch with Georg and leave—"

When I was saying that, Kiba spoke to me with a puzzled expression.

“...Hey, Ise-kun. The shine in the jewels of your armor... Isn’t it strange?”

What? The shine of the jewels...in my armour? When I looked at the jewels of my armor — they somehow seemed darker!? The black mist seemed to linger on the jewel, and the usual glow was shaded! Hey, Ddraig, what is this...wait! Ddraig, the countdown should have ended, right? Why don't you come out? When I spoke to Ddraig that is inside me—

"_____。_____。_____"

There was a lot of noise and I couldn't hear Ddraig's voice! W-what's going on!? Speaking of which, Ddraig was not showing up! Ddraig's voice, which always reached me, was full of noise and Ddraig didn't come out... What the hell was this phenomenon...? At this time — the ground shook a lot! Earthquake!? It's quite powerful though... This was a pseudo-space, and there shouldn't be an earthquake

other than someone else's skill! Well, I didn't even know if earthquakes could happen in the original Urakyoto!

"Ah!"

"Kyaa!"

My companions screamed! Looking at them — I saw something like darkness appearing at their feet! They had their legs locked and were being sucked in little by little!

"W-What is that!?"

Rias also had her feet caught in the darkness and was gradually sinking into the ground! The deep crimson armor was also undone. Meanwhile, the ground trembling became even more intense, making it impossible to stand! Although I say that, it’s because Rias, Asia and everyone else were sinking into darkness!

"Kuu!"

Rias tried to wipe away the darkness at her feet with the Power of Destruction — but Rias's power was sucked into the darkness, and no change occurred! The power of Rias's destruction didn't work either!?

"Damn you!"

When Xenovia stabbed Durandal into the darkness — the Holy Sword itself was caught in it and started to sink in. Taking out the Holy Sword became impossible!

[Kuuh!]

Yasaka-san, who was in her original form of a giant Kyuubi, and the other Youkais also had their feet caught in the darkness.

"Ha-Haha-ue!"

Kunou over Yasaka-san's head seemed to be fine.

[Kunou! In no way separate from Mom's body!]

Yasaka-san told Kunou. Shit! Given the earthquake and this whole situation, it was better to fly and rescue everyone! Luckily, I still didn't have my feet stuck in the darkness, so I decided to grow out my dragon wings, rising to the sky and pulling my mates out of the darkness as I flew. I expanded the two dragon wings and tried to fly to the sky—

"Uwaa!"

Immediately, I felt the sensation of the gravity force. I fell without flying and was on all fours on the floor. ...Not good! I cannot fly! It's not like the ground in this space was doing something! In other words, there's something wrong with the space itself... While I was thinking like that—

[Unfortunately, this is going to be the end of you.]

—An unknown voice was heard. In the next moment, unbelievable pressure and aura could be felt from above us! A dark mist appeared there, spreading across the sky and gradually becoming huge. And what appeared in the sky was — an extra-large black sphere that should be around a hundred meters. It was releasing an unbelievable aura, and I could also feel the aura of a God. A large eyeball appeared in the sphere. When I thought that, eyeballs started to appear one after another, and the sphere became covered in eyes! In addition, countless black tentacles grew in every corner of the sphere, and at the tip of the tentacles was a hand. Was it okay to say that — it was a sphere full of eyes with countless long, thin hands? The mouthless sphere directed all of its eyes towards us.

[I am the God of the Abyss[3], Tartarus.]

—! I've heard that name before! Rias screamed.

“Tartarus!? One of the Primordial Gods... The one who embodies the [Abyss]... No way, even Tartarus is related to the turmoil this time...!”

Tartarus was one of the Rulers of Hell who had responded to Hades' call. ...N-no way, even Tartarus showed up here! Tartarus said.

[What’s wrong, I was simply watching you from behind the scenes since the mid-fight. Whether Erebus's strategy worked or not, I would accomplish my goal.]

[....Goal, you say?]

Yasaka-san asked. Tartarus replied.

[To sink all of you into the Abyss along with this space made by a Longinus.]

"—!?"

Upon learning the goal of Tartarus, we couldn’t help but be shocked! Seriously?! It meant this space was sinking into the [Abyss] at this very moment! T-Then, Cao Cao and Ikuse-san, who were fighting elsewhere in this space, were in the same situation as us now— I tried to communicate with Georg, who should have been operating the barrier from Urakyoto.

“Georg, can you hear me!? Can’t you do something!?"

However, there was no answer.

"...It seems that we got cut off from the other side; it isolated us from contacting them there."

Rias said that. Tartarus continued.

[There are many Longinus possessors in this space. A perfect opportunity for dealing with them all at once. From the moment you teleported, this space was adjusted from the outside to become my area. Unfortunately, you were so focused on the new children of Lilith and Erebus that you didn't notice me. The owner of Dimension Lost should no longer be in control.]

…So, he wanted to take advantage of the Erebus group's plan and get rid of us! Rias asked.

"Why are you targeting Longinus owners!?"

Tartarus replied.

[From the shadows, I watched as the owners of Longinus defeated Lilith's new children, Gressil and Sonneillon who overflowed with talent, and the Primordial God Erebus. As I thought, Longinus are dangerous. A force that can easily kill Gods... It's not something mere humans or supernatural beings from other factions should possess.]

"So, are you going to kill us!?"

When I asked, Tartarus narrowed his countless eyes.

[No. I will seal you in the Abyss. The Sacred Gear System is made in such a way that it will move on to the next owner if the previous one is killed. So, it’s useless. That's why I will seal you all in the Abyss.]

—! ....What the hell! So, he's planning to throw all of us into the Abyss! I asked Rias.

"Rias, what is the Abyss?"

Rias said with a bitter expression.

“...I heard it's an area that you’ll never be able to escape once you descend there. It's a world of pure darkness without even a single ray of light...”

“...T-Then, I definitely don't want to go down there. There will probably be no breasts there, and even if I sink with Rias and the others, if there is no light, I won't be able to see them! —It's the end of the world!”

I yelled at Ddraig inside me. Ddraig! Get out please! At this rate, we will be taken to a world without oppai, to a world where you can’t see oppai!

"――――。――― ! ―― ! "

My partner’s voice was still full of noise and I couldn't hear it properly! It didn’t seem like he’s capable of manifesting himself! What’s going on!? Tartarus told me as if he read my mind.

[Erebus used a darkness incantation on you with his remaining power. Sekiryuutei Ddraig will not be able to appear immediately. And while he can’t do so, you will sink into the Abyss.]

That technique of Erebus... It was to seal Ddraig! Probably, Erebus was cooperating with Tartarus and made a plan to lessen his burden when passing the baton to him! Being a God's curse, as expected, even Ddraig wouldn't be able to leave immediately! In the meantime, my feet were also caught in the darkness and started to sink! Rias and the others had already sunk in the darkness to the waist! I-If it continued like this, it would be bad! We, together with the entire pseudo-space, would be sealed into the Abyss!

"God of the Abyss!"

While everyone was struggling, Kunou, who was safely on top of Yasaka-san, asked Tartarus.

"Why?! Why are you, despite being a God, trying to harm our world!?”

Tartarus turned all eyes on Kunou. Kunou got a little scared, but she screamed with courage.

“There are a lot of people looking forward to the show in Urakyto! No, not only that! No one who lives in Kyoto or who visits Kyoto bothered the God of the Abyss, did they!?”

[This is also because cause and effect got intertwined. In my view, you are evil, and to you, I look like a Jashin[4]. That’s all there is to it.]

Upon hearing this, Kunou looked puzzled, but then she made a brave face.

“...I don't understand what a God thinks. But! I will not let you sink my companions and Haha-ue into the Abyss!”

Saying that, Kunou raised her aura and showed her intention to fight Tartarus! Yasaka-san also had tears at seeing her heroic appearance.

[Well said, Kunou! This is the one who will carry the burden of the next generation of Kyuubi!]

...Geez, if a primary school student would go that far, if I didn't get up, it'd be lame, right? While my feet were locked in the darkness, I lifted my body and tried to get in stance against Tartarus— It was then. The necklace worn by Kunou, the one in the shape of a rainbow-colored snake, began to emit light. When it made the nearby area sparkle in a rainbow-colored light — it then changed to a jet-black aura and distorted the space near Kunou. A hole was created in a distorted space that was large enough for a person to pass through. And then, two people jumped out of there. Looking there — two lolis could be seen! Ophis and — Lilith!

T-The Dragon God sisters, why were they in such a place!? We couldn't help but be surprised! From Kunou's rainbow-colored snake necklace that glowed...Ophis and Lilith came out! Kunou also said that necklace was something that Ophis gave her, right!?

"Ophis!"

When I called, Ophis — gave me a V sign! No, not that! Why were you here!? Even though you shouldn’t appear in public too much! And why in front of Tartarus!? I was so puzzled that I didn't even know what to ask! From above Yasaka-san's head, Ophis looked at our current situation. After confirming this, she looked at Tartarus.

“Primordial God Tartarus of the Abyss. I won’t let you bully Kunou, Ise and the others anymore. They are my precious friends.”

Tartarus widened his eyes.

[Hou, and to think that the Ouroboros Dragon would be my opponent... Very well. Now that you are finite, let's see how much—]

But Ophis shook her head. Lilith also followed.

“Tartarus's opponent, not us.”

“Not us.”

[So, what will be my opponent?]

Then, in response to Tartarus, Ophis looked at a certain point in the sky and said,

“—Brought it.”

“Brought it to Ise!”

When Ophis and Lilith said that — cracks appeared in the sky! The cracks gradually spread, and then shattered into pieces with a

crunching sound. That meant the pseudo-space walls were broken! It was a giant deep crimson flying object that crashed through the wall of the pseudo-space! I was familiar with it. At that time, it was wrapped in something that looked like a cocoon, but that shape and color was—

"—Ryu-Ryuuteimaru!?"

I screamed like that! Yes! The huge flying object that appeared by crushing the walls of the pseudo-space was Ryuuteimaru, which was in the middle of a mysterious change! W-Why was Ryuuteimaru here!? He was... brought by Ophis and Lilith!? Geez, I couldn't understand anythi-i-i-i-ing! While I kept being surprised, I heard a familiar voice in my ear.

《—ear? Please tell me, can you hear me—!》

Th-that voice! Seekvaira-san!

"Seekvaira-san!? W-what the hell is going on...?”

When I asked, it seemed like communication got established and I could hear the answer.

《I have some questions too, but suddenly, your Skithblathnir activated. Ophis and her other self said they were going to take him...and suddenly, they teleported.》

—Activated! And Ophis brought him!? Seekvaira-san continued.

《Fortunately, it looks like the communication device I installed on the Skithblathnir works properly. ...If I remember correctly, you are in the middle of an operation, right?》

“Right now, we are fighting Tartarus, the Primordial God! Or rather, we are about to sink into the Abyss!”

Seekvaira-san was also left speechless upon hearing my words.

《—! ...Tartarus appeared? Understood. I will explain briefly. Hyoudou Issei-kun. —Please combine with the Skithblathnir, Ryuuteimaru.》

"—!? C-Combine!?"

Me and Ryuuteimaru...combining! With him, who became that flying thing!?

《The results of the examination shows, that it's yours—》

Interrupting Seekvaira-san's words, Tartarus's eyes turned into a dangerous color! He started coating himself with attack aura!

[I don't know what that is, but it’s wiser to make the first move.]

Offensive aura gathered in the countless long and thin hands!

“Looks like it's going to be attacked!”

When I said this to Seekvaira-san, she also responded in a hurry.

《That hole! There must be a hole in front of Ryuuteimaru that can fit a single person! Get in there!》

“Get in there!?”

《Don’t worry about it, hurry!》

“B-But my feet are stuck in the darkness—”

Yes, my feet were now submerged in darkness by the power of Tartarus— Wait, Ophis and Lilith got close to me! They walked here without worrying about the earthquake in this space! Ophis and Lilith held my arms tightly.

""Heave-ho.""

Along with the yell, they forcibly pulled me out! ...Ah, they could pull me out with brute force only. W-Well, it must be due to the Dragon God’s power... Well, I was also in Dragon Deification form now, however ...How should I put it, the real thing was different! Although my feet were freed, flying was also hard! An absurd force of gravity was applied, so I couldn't fly! However, Ophis — aptly raised my body! Ara! Me, I was being lifted by such a small girl! While lifting me, Ophis—

"Heave-ho~"

They threw me towards the direction of Ryuuteimaruuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu! I was thrown in the air and somehow managed to grab the edge of Ryuuteimaru, which was in the sky. So I went into the hole that a person could get into. I entered the hole that Seekvaira-san said.

"I'm already in!"

《You can combine from there. There is a hole where you can insert something like a plug. Place the tail of the armor there. And also shout at that time.》

A hole to insert something like a plug... Here! I asked Seekvaira-san as I stretched my tail.

“What should I yell?”

Seekvaira-san screamed with great spirit.

《In・finite Com・bination! Infinity Go!》

—!? .....W-What’s with that?! W-Was that kind of shouting necessary?! I couldn’t help but be perplexed! Of course! No matter what you think about it, there’s something wrong with her head! There are limits to loving robots, that princess!

“Do I have to shout that!?””

I asked that.

《Yes, probably.》

Seekvaira-san responded seriously.

'Probably'!? What does that mean!?

"It's not just about your hobby, is it!?"

《.....Please believe me.》

“What was that pause for!?”

《.....Please believe me.》

“U-Understood.”

If so, let's go all or nothing! Who knows what might happen? However, I had no choice but to believe in Ophis and Lilith who brought it here, and in the robot lover Seekvaira-san! After catching my breath, I swallowed my shame and — I screamed!

“In・finite Com・bination! Infinity Gooooooooo!!”

At the same time that I screamed, Seekvaira-san, my communication partner, screamed for some reason!

《Acti・vation App・roved!!!》

—Was there anything that had to be approved by Seekvaira-san!? No, absolutely not! You just wanted to shout it and made me say that embarrassing phrase...! The tail was inserted into the hole. At that moment — many things started flowing in my brain! T-This was from Ryuuteimaru...? Sacred Gear...? [Boosted Gear]... From Ddraig… ...Seekvaira-san said.

《Hyoudou Issei-kun. This is probably a Sekiryuutei-strengthening Armed Base. Ryuuteimaru's information must be flowing through the tail.》

...Yes. Information was flowing. Above all, I understood the real identity of this Ryuuteimaru. What Ophis was saying, the power of Great Red, the manifestation of that answer... Using my body as a medium, Ryuuteimaru scooped it out and embodied the part which otherwise would be limited by my body. And by connecting with that, this form — the manifestation of Great Red's power was complete!

"This is my new form, "AxA Apocalypse × AnswerArms"."

And when I made up my mind, Seekvaira-san's voice came.

《Ryuuteimaru is in an incomplete state, so don't be too reckless. And I want to do more research when you get back after all.》

It was not yet complete! After all, it just came out of the cocoon! Wait, Seekvaira-san's voice sounded really excited! W-Well, that’s fine! Anyway, if I didn’t do something, everyone would be thrown into the Abyss! In my mind — I thought about going ahead! Then, Ryuuteimaru, the huge flying object, also advanced. ...It works! If I think, this guy answers! I put the target on the sphere full of eyeballs in front of me and increased the speed! A booster connected to Ryuuteimaru spurted aura greatly and bounced forward with great impulse! Seeing this, Tartarus opened all eyes.

[—! Interesting. So, why don't we test how much the power of the Abyss works!?]

All the long, narrow hands turned towards me and fired countless shots of divine aura! A ridiculous number of aura volleys! Because it would take a long time to turn with this giant body, and the speed

wasn't so high, at this rate, I'd get hit! The means to defend against it— At that moment, a defense method flowed into my brain! To activate it, I thought about it in my head! I thought about activating it! Devices appeared from various parts of Ryuuteimaru's body. Then, through my jewels, Ryuuteimaru's voice echoed.

[Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!]

[Revelation Barrier!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!]

A strong barrier appeared across Ryuuteimaru's body in response to the volley of countless aura blasts that Tartarus fired! The barrier took on all of Tartarus's aura attacks — and it was completely unharmed!

"Seekvaira-san, I created a barrier and blocked the attack."

Seekvaira-san made a surprised sound at my voice.

《It is surprising that it's equipped with even the barrier generator. It's the best... Ahem. Anyway, because the weaponry and its firepower are unknown, limit the power during the attacks, please. Otherwise, we don't know what can happen.》

Somehow, it looks like she's having fun... But I'll put that aside for now! First, I have to finish this eyeball-monster in front of me! —! Through the Sacred Gear, the next information from Ryuuteimaru was transmitted! ... I'll use this next! A great number of muzzle-like things appeared all over Ryuuteimaru's body. I limited the power and wow! An unbelievable amount of aura flowed there. All muzzles were facing Tartarus. And then, a powerful voice echoed.

[Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!]

[Revelation All-Range Blaster!!!!!!!!!!!!!]

From muzzles all over the body, countless shots of extreme auras were fired towards Tartarus!

"—Like I'll let you."

Defensive magic circles formed at the end of Tartarus's arms. Those magic circles got rained by Ryuuteimaru's aura shot — Revelation Blaster! Tartarus's magic circles were pierced as if they were made out of paper and the bombardment fired by Ryuuteimaru hit almost the entirety of the eyeball-filled sphere! Overflowing bombardment hit the ground, and at that moment — it created a huge explosion that easily changed the terrain! No, it didn't end with just that, it made the space itself tremble! Tartarus, who took the Revelation Blaster head-on, seemed to have taken a huge amount of damage, with almost half of the sphere being blown away! —! N-No, wait a minute! Wait a second! Didn't the attack just now almost become a decisive blow!? It was still just the first shot, you know!? I was greatly surprised by this result! ...Wh-What the hell! Just how many ∞ Blasters combined was that!? And yet, I was limiting the output! Yasaka-san saw the result of my shots and said.

[Ku...! What quantity! With this much power, the pseudo-space will not last!]

I-Indeed! At this rate, it looked like this space would reach its limit at once due to Ryuuteimaru's attacks! Tartarus, who had half its body blown up, regenerated his body and stared at me. His voice changed completely and the tone was — from someone cornered.

[...You can shoot so many shots and with such force...!? Demonic dragon who manifested the power of infinity…and the dreams…no, who was endowed with the power of Ophis and Great Red...!!]

His fighting spirit had not been shaken, huh! So, I had no choice but to weaken those shots a little more, and then use them again!

There were long gun barrels on both sides of the body. Perhaps that was — a killer move of his, and because I wasn't used to this form, I couldn't tell what's going to happen, so I couldn't shoot that easily! So, I could only shoot Revelation Blaster from before! When I tried to charge the aura into the muzzles and shoot another Revelation Blaster—

[So, how about hand-to-hand combat? With this giant body, it should not be able to move well.]

Tartarus was flying over here! The huge eyeball God had aura overflowing in his countless hands! The countless hands stretched out! Did he intend to pierce Ryuuteimaru's body with his hands covered in aura? Hand-to-hand combat! I also — had the means for that! I thought of the information that flowed into my head! Then, Ryuuteimaru's upper and lower body parts slid, and two arms appeared from each of them! Four arms grew! He even had four arms!

[Revelation Blade!!!!!!!!!!!!!!]

Along with the voice, an extremely large blade of aura appeared from the tip of the four arms! I attacked the countless hands from Tartarus who targeted me with the aura blades that extended from Ryuuteimaru's four arms. It's called Apocalypse Ascalon. The blade of aura that grew from the arms moved according to my thoughts and cut off Tartarus's arms one after the other. Tartarus opened the distance for a moment, and then regenerated his severed arms.

[Who would have thought that I would eventually have to fight head-on against such a ridiculously atrocious existence.]

Tartarus started to release something like light beams from the many eyes on his spherical body! Also, because he did that while rotating, Tartarus's aura attacks rained everywhere! What about my partners!? I sent my look down. I was worried about my teammates who couldn't move because of their feet stuck in the darkness...but it seemed like Ophis and Lilith repelled them. I also paid no heed to his attacks. But if you put it in another way, this situation, it would be dangerous if not for Ophis, Lilith and "AxA Apocalypse × AnswerArms".
...Primordial God, incarnation of the Abyss, Tartarus. He wasn't some ordinary foe! I yelled at Tartarus.

"If you are a God...save those who are weak!"

[The Greek Gods have love and madness. You should learn Greek mythology. Every God is just a crazy thing. Yesterday, they were affectionate, and today they are driven by madness. It's just that.]

“So that’s how it is, huh! In that case, I'm going to kick your ass!”

It happened when I finished that line.

"Exactly! If they come at you, you just have to defeat them!"

I heard a familiar voice! Looking there, an aura radiated over Ryuuteimaru, taking the form of a Dragon. What appeared there was the figure of Ddraig on top of Ryuuteimaru! Ooh! Finally, Ddraig manifested! I see, when we combined, through me, Ryuuteimaru made Ddraig manifest! Tartarus became much more cautious upon seeing [A×A] and Ddraig on top.

[The two Sekiryuutei... A reality more terrifying than any legend.]

...It's better to decide things here! I told Seekvaira-san.

“Seekvaira-san! I somehow want to contact Georg in Kyoto Interior through you!”

《—! It's urgent, right? Understood! So, what do I say?》

It helps me a lot that she understands quickly! I said.

“Tartarus and the two Sekiryuutei are fighting! As I’m going to blow up Tartarus with all this space, I want you to return us back to the original location the moment you get control over the barrier back!”

《I will tell him!》

Answered like that by Seekvaira-san, I spoke to Ddraig.

“Ddraig! —Fire an aura with a great amount of power! Now then, won’t you keep me company!?”

"Hahaha! Of course, Partner! Heck, staying with you just ends up facing this craziness, that's as much fun as possible!"

“I’m not having fun at all, but I'm confident if I have Ddraig!”

"I see, I see! Right! Here we go!"

"Yes!"

Me and Ddraig answered each other! With Ddraig jumping from the top of Ryuuteimaru towards Tartarus being a signal, I also increased Ryuuteimaru’s speed in my mind! Tartarus indiscriminately shot innumerable aura beams from his countless hands and eyes! Ddraig dodged it easily in the air, and while Ryuuteimaru that I controlled dodged some, it also took some direct hits from the rays as well. However, even taking the beam up front, thanks to the barrier, I was intact. Speaking of the terrain on the other side of the pseudo-space — the countless rays of light of the Abyss God made the earth devastated, caused multiple cracks to appear in the sky, and the

space itself was getting all worn-out and gradually heading towards collapse.

It gave me shivers just thinking about such a battle occurring in Urakyoto and Kyoto in the human world... But, on the other hand, that's exactly why I could feel free to go crazy here! Getting in close combat again, I generated huge aura blades from the four arms and cut many of Tartarus's arms! And at this moment, Ddraig punched the giant globe full of eyes on the side, his fist full of aura! As if pursuing him, I thrust the blades of the four arms into the body of Tartarus mercilessly! There is no way I will let you escape!

“Ddraig!”

"Yes! Let’s do it!"

I made the muzzles appear from various parts of Ryuuteimaru's body and pointed all of them at Tartarus! A huge...unbelievable amount of aura gathered at the muzzles. Ddraig also inflated his abdomen and began to prepare to launch his flames! At that time, Before I knew it, Ophis and Lilith moved onto Ryuuteimaru's body. All of Tartarus's eyes went to Ophis and Lilith at the same time. Ophis and Lilith opened their mouths to speak to Tartarus.

"Ise has no talent."

"None."

"But whoever it may be, he will do them a favour by becoming their friend, their ally.”

"Friend."

“You’ll be as strong as the number of comrades you have. That is, "Issei Sekiryuutei Sekiryuutei of the Blazing Truth". This is—”

"Oppai Dragon!"

Upon hearing this, Tartarus replied.

[For that reason, he fights... He gets stronger... Do you think we can understand something like that?]

Even if you don't understand, the preparations for shooting the aura were ready.

[Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer! Answer!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!]

[Revelation All-Range Blaster!!!!!!!!!!!!!]

The sound resonated and I thought about letting it blow all out up at once!

“Blow awaaaaaaaaaaaay!!!”

At the same time, Ddraig spat out the extreme flames from his mouth! The super powerful bombardment that could easily blow up even the Primordial God fired by [AxA] and the fire fired by the Heavenly Dragon, with it, Tartarus was swallowed inside the aura without doing anything— This pseudo-space was also destroyed by my and Ddraig's attack.

The next thing I saw was — the scenery of Urakyoto! Ah! The space was fine! Or rather, did we return to the original location? I immediately disconnected from Ryuuteimaru and flew into the air. Looking down, I could see Rias, Asia, Yasaka-san, Kunou and my companions! Cao Cao and the Hero Faction and Ikuse-san's team were alive and well too! Looks like Georg was safely contacted by Seekvaira-san... If you looked closely, there was also Erebus who had passed out and was still tied up, and a little further away...a black sphere which was reduced to roughly five meters. Even though his eyes were all closed...it’s probably Tartarus. All tattered. So he

wasn't exterminated even after such an attack? Should I say as expected of a God? ...Ddraig and I went down to everyone. Ara, before I knew it, Ophis and Lilith were on Ddraig's head. We got down to everyone. Rias said.

"Ise, you won, right?"

"Yes, thanks to Ryuuteimaru — thanks to [AxA], somehow."

Rias looked at the deep crimson flying object that floated in the sky — at Ryuuteimaru.

"...That is, your familiar's grown form, and the answer of Great Red's power...I suppose.”

"...I don't know how to use it from now on, but I think it would be nice if it’s something worthy of that 'answer'.”

Everyone was also looking at Ryuuteimaru with curiosity. In this situation, Kunou raised a surprised voice.

"So, Phis-dono and Lith-dono are the Dragon God of Infinity-sama?!"

Ah! So, the time to reveal their true identity has come... After all, we lied to Kunou about the true identity of Ophis and Lilith.

"Kunou, I—"

Ophis tried to say something, but Kunou simply responded with a smile.

"It's all right! Being with Ise and the others shows that, leaving aside the complicated situation, you get along. Besides, it doesn't change that I, Phis-dono and Lith-dono are friends! ...It's what I think, right?"

In the end, Kunou asked so shyly. Ophis had a rare pleasant smile and hugged Kunou.

“I, am Kunou's friend. Thanks."

Lilith also joins in their hugging.

"Friend! Friend!"

Kunou also had a hug with Ophis and Lilith.

“Umu. Friends.”

I’m glad! Suddenly, Ophis and Lilith's true identity was discovered by Kunou...but the three managed to remain friends! Yasaka-san, who was watching over this, had already returned to her human form.

“It seems like the whole case was solved. Okay, guys. Let's tell everyone that everything turned out well.”

"Yes!"

We agreed with the words of Yasaka-san. I told everyone too.

"Well then, you must be tired, but let's start preparing for the event show. Everyone is looking forward to it, you know!"

"Naturally."

Even though everyone had to be tired too, they answered thus. In this way, we managed to successfully close this incident— When the incident ended, sophomores reported that a sudden sun shower descended upon Kyoto, the one that was called "Fox Wedding". Kyoto in the second year was also turbulent.

Translator's Notes and References

1. lengths of laid rice straw rope used for ritual purification in the Shinto religion.

2. Refers to sudden motion

3. Raw says Naraku. Naraku can mean both hell and abyss in Japanese

4. Malevolent God

New Life

After the show event in Kyoto ended on a peaceful note, the second year school trip also ended without any more troubles and we returned home. A few days later— We were discussing what happened in Kyoto with everyone in the living room.

“Ara, it’s a lovely one, isn’t it."

Rias was smiling and looking at sceneries on the photos of Koneko-chan and the others on the school trip. This is a photo of the second years posing in front of the Temple of the Golden Pavilion. Everyone seemed happy.

“The event was also perfect.”

Ravel shows a photo of the show event that took place in Urakyoto. It showed us doing a pose on the stage, excited audience and big fireworks going on. It is a good picture. —And, a beautiful woman sitting next to me, Yasaka-san said.

“The show event was a great success. You could say that unofficially it’s almost decided about wanting to conduct the next show."

That’s what Yasaks-san told us. Since that incident she started visiting from time to time, through the magic teleportation circle! When there’s a free time at work, she said.....!

Thanks to the fervent look she sends me, I just keep getting excited, but on the other hand the looks I get from the girls hurt..... However, whether there will be another event in Urakyoto will depend on the schedule. Unexpectedly, I may end up visiting Kyoto regularly. By the way, the goods from Cao Cao who was the bodyguard during the event, arrived. Looking at it, it was Grass Dango, Shibamata’s specialty (currently one of the Hero Faction's

bases of activity is near the Shibamata Taishakuten temple in Tokyo). There was a memo along.

The memo said, “I was in your care in Urakyoto. Thanks."

.....Is it about when he apologized to Yasaka-san? Damn, he's quite an honest guy. Although there was this report on Kyoto, the topic was changed to Ryuuteimaru— AxA.

“By the way, Ise. How is Ryuuteimaru?”

Xenovia asked that.

“Oh, I can't put him outside with this size, so I decided to leave him in a private space.”

I answered like that. Irina tilts her head in a puzzlement.

“Even if that was okay..... the risk seems scary. After all, it has power on such a scale ."

"About that..... Honestly, how should I put it, it’s not that much.”

I said so. There was no backlash. Ravel said.

“According to research by the Grigori and Ajuka Beelzebub-sama, energy—aura consumption is extremely intense, so the operating time is short and Ryuuteimaru cannot move even after a few days. This can be counted as a kind of a risk."

"Well, after using it, I'm also absurdly tired."

I followed after Ravel. Even after several days, the feeling of tiredness still remains.

“..... And that’s all? Using something of that level.”

Xenovia responded with “It’s unexpected”. Because when I acquired Dragon Deification, there were circumstances in which my body

couldn't take it and and it had to be made into the 「Pseudo」 form. Yes, there is still plenty of room to strengthen the Dragon Deification form. Someday, I'll have to move from the [Pseudo] onto the True Dragon Deification.

Kiba said.

"In that case, we can say it's the same phenomenon as when you became True『Queen』, right."

Ravel answers.

"However, we were also given a caution— Do not use it seriously. No, it may be more accurate to say that it is a warning."

"What do you mean ..... Do not use it seriously?" Asia asked worriedly.

Rias replied about it.

"I received an explanation regarding Ryuuteimaru. That is - it looks like Ryuuteimaru keeps within it power capable enough to destroy a planet."

『— !!? A p-planet!? 』

Everyone except for Ravel and me screamed in shock at Rias' words. This is natural, right. You know, if you hear this and that about a planet. I said.

"Even when I defeated Tartarus , Seekvaira-san told me to suppress the power. In fact, with limited output it had such power, right? ..... I also thought it was dangerous, destroying a planet sounds crazy, but I feel like I understand."

Using that power inside Ryuuteimaru, I realized. It's scary in a different sense than True Dragon Deification. True Dragon

Deification is scary because of the risk of the body not being able to adapt, but A × A with Ryuuteimaru is too scary because, on the contrary, the risk is low.

“— The current Ryuuteimaru, A×A is too dangerous.” I said so.

“Have your feelings for oppai finally reached planet breaking levels? .....” Xenovia said with a groan.

..... Rossweisse-san asks with a serious expression.

"..... So a restriction in order to be able to unleash that power when you think about doing it, right?"

I said.

“Currently, it’s not quite at a perfect state, so I don’t know how serious it can get..... But if I have it shoot at high power, I think it will be able to shoot. That’s why it’s dangerous.”

Supposing it can fire an attack powerful enough to be able to break the planet ..... there’s no way you can shoot something like this that easily. Because it will be all over.—

Ophis said.

“Ryuuteimaru grew up anticipating future threats. That’s how it seems. That strength is in preparation for something.”

In response, Irina was puzzled.

.....What are the future threats? Are the Gods of Hell so dangerous? ”

"It may be with assumption for fighting against Sakra or the God of Destruction Shiva."

Xenovia speaks like that.

"....."

"....."

Rias and Ravel seemed to have something in mind about Ophis's words. Hey, Ddraig. My current self, if it goes along with Ryuuteimaru, did I surpass Vali?

『In terms of raw power you have overtaken it at once. But, you've already been told that aura consumption is too intense, right? That power has no meaning unless it lands a hit. When you get cornered after the attack being evaded and then 『AxA』 ending due to stamina exhaustion, it would be the end.』

Ddraig said calmly. ..... In fact, right. My power was something incredible, but it is not necessarily the case that all those attacks will reach the transcendentally fast Vali. So when the combination with Ryuuteimaru is over, I'll get beaten and it's over, huh? ..... Perhaps, with Vali as an opponent it's no more than a huge moving fort. ..... So this means there is room for improvement and training, huh?

While Ddraig laughs, he said.

『But, if you destroy the entire planet, you win.』

I'm also going to die if the Earth is gone, aren't I! During that, I also thought of something. ..... I asked Beelzebub-sama whether this power can be of help to Azazel-sensei and Sirzechs-sama and the others, who are in the isolation barrier.....

『I guess, you can expect the outcome? Probably it will be able to deal a serious damage to 666 Trihexa. However, the opponent's regenerative power is unmatched. After all, it was a plan where Sirzechs considered fighting for a super long time. So, I don't think you can beat him with a single blow. Furthermore, once you go there, you will not be able to return until you defeat him. Therefore,

it can be said that there are too many risks for you. ..... I am against sending you at the current state.』

I was admonished like that. ..... It was an explanation where I couldn’t say anything in return. Well, it’s not very realistic either way, because getting inside seems quite hard. The topic moves on to the leaders of Hell.

“... We have defeated two Primordial Gods. According to the agent in the Realm of the Dead the Alliance of Hell's leaders is about to collapse."

I said about a report explained to me by the higher-ups. The main remaining gods of the opponent are Hades and the greatest Evil God of Zoroastrianism Angra Manyu. It seems that we’ve become a major topic in each faction by defeating three Primordial Gods in succession. Ravel said.

"Our ..... DxD’s power as a deterrent is continuing to become the biggest fighting power even amongst all factions, right."

"..... If we defeat the God Hades, there may be no more those who oppose us publicly, right."

Koneko-chan spoke like that.

..... However, Beelzebub-sama said that we need more power for the future. The current strength of D × D is not enough. ..... EXE for the future, huh? Against a threat that will come in the future Azazel-sensei and Beelzebub-sama hoped to find transcendents that would support the world from behind the scenes and told about secretly establishing a secret intelligence agency. This is EXE. In the future, I was asked to be an intelligence agent there. Eventually, it will start to move seriously ..... While I was thinking about such a thing, Le Fay said.

"A-actually my ..... Pendragon's family seems to have a request for DxD....."

—! A request? Le Fay? Rias seems to have heard it before and said.

"I also received explanations in advance, so I will say briefly - it looks like there was a disturbing movement in the British royal family. Because of that, current Britain is now in a great state of chaos."

British royal family? Furthermore Britain is now in the midst of chaos from within! Suddenly, perhaps I should say that this story really took a turn, but we were told something we couldn't even imagine.

"As it is not appearing on any news ..... Does it mean that it is really something internal? So what happened?"

When I asked, Le Fay answered.

"— Longinus. In addition, one of the five new ones,Unparallel Crown of the Abyss『Alphecca Tyrant』, appeared among the British royal family."

『— ! ! 』 Everyone was surprised by this report! What a thing! The British royal family has a new Longinus ..... So this is the source of the chaos?! Irina was also surprised by that.

"I-it can't be! Papa and Mama are also there in Britain, are they all right ..... " Irina's parents - or rather, her home is in Britain, after all.

Rias added even more shocking news.

"There's more to that outrageous news『Red Dragon』 and 『White Dragon』 the two Heavenly Dragons have been spotted in England."

『— !!?』

Everyone had no choice but to be surprised, including me! I, the『Red Dragon』and 『White Dragon』 appeared in Great Britain?!

“『Red Dragon』and『White Dragon』!? Wait, Ddraig is..... here, right?”

When I asked this,

『Yes, I'm here, Partner』

Ddraig answered in a voice everyone could hear.

『I don't know exactly how it happened, but from what I heard from you, it would seem like an imposter of mine and Albion.』

..... Impostor, huh? Is it related to the new Longinus? Or is it a harbinger of something from the leaders of Hell? ..... There is no end to worries. Rias said.

"For now, this mission includes Gremory peerage, including Ise’s peerage, and Sairaorg’s peerage, and also —"

Le Fay raises her hand.

“We, the Vali team will also participate. It was originally a request from the Pendragon family, after all. ”

“This time I'll go along too, nyan.”

Kuroka responded while eating Japanese sweets, which are souvenirs from Kyoto. It means the next mission is with Vali and Sairaorg-san and the others. — And at that moment, a surprising man appears. It was Crom Cruach in his black coat!

“—Crom Cruach! Where have you been so far? ”

Although Rias asks, Evil Dragon's answered unilaterally.

“Why don’t I join this time too? These impostors of the two Heavenly Dragons pique my interest, after all.”

Ddraig laughs.

『Heh. That’s certainly like you. 』

And just then, Vali also appears.

“It seems that all of the actors for the impostor hunt are present. Well, I and Albion intend to take care of our impostor ourselves."

He says so fearlessly. Vali also looked at me.

“Hyoudou Issei. I heard the story. It looks like you got stronger , again.”

“Although I can't really handle it because the power is in a different league."

“What are you saying, against those who oppose us that much is perfect. Besides, for me this is something very exciting, that is, my destined rival getting stronger."

While we, the hosts, were having such a chat, Albion told Ddraig.

『Red. While dealing with the impostors, we’ll show you our new power. 』

『Ho, White. Isn’t that intriguing? 』

They were having an interesting conversation, but.....

“Phis-dono! Lith-dono! Let's play Cuju in the garden! ”

“I kick, kick”

“Kick Kick, Kick”

The charming figures of Kunou, Ophis and Lilith also jump into my eyes.

Since then, the three have deepened their relationships even more. This is very warming.

But this incident also revealed other dangerous aspects. ..... A battlefield at the level that forces Ophis and Lilith to come, huh.

If those two didn't come, I think we would have been sealed in the Abyss by Tartarus. That was the level of the battle. That was the level of danger.

Each faction deemed Hades and the others as a danger, and issued orders to defeat him, it looks like we will soon have the decisive battle with the leaders of Hell. However, if the scale of the battles got bigger than that ..... again, the Dragon God sisters would appear on the battlefield, and perhaps fight for real?

No, just that I want to avoid. It should not happen.

Ophis and Lilith ..... must live in peace. It is not because 「their power is the strongest」, but because they are my family and I want them to enjoy peace.

I don’t want bad guys to use their power ever again.

After all, Khaos Brigade and Qlippoth continuously abused the power of Ophis and Lilith.

To prevent this from happening again, I was thinking hard that I must be able to handle the Dragon Deification form —Diabolos × Dragon 『DxD』 and the Apocalypse × AnswerArms 『AxA』 form which I got this time by any means possible.

End Game

News about Darkness God Erebus and God of the Abyss Tartarus' defeat also reached the base of the leaders of Hell, located in the lowest level of Hell, Cocytus.

Erebus, who was accompanied by Artificial Devils Sonneillon and Gressil, overbearing actions were stopped by DxD alongside with Tartarus who cooperated with Erebus.

A voice echoed from a huge monitor located before Hades' eyes.

[Seems like you received heavy damage.]

A processed voice. The monitor displayed no picture, only a voice was heard.

This voice belonged to...one of the six houses, that previously were close aides to the former Maou Lucifer, Nebiros. Nonetheless, even Hades himself didn't know whether it was a blood relative of Nebiros or an affiliated researcher.

They were discussing the aftermath information with each other.

《Eventually, DxD's fangs may reach you as well.》

Hades said so suddenly.

[.....Ha-ha-ha.]

A parched laughter came from the monitor.

Nebiros continued.

[That's rude. Satanael-dono, Shalba-sama and Rizevim-sama said the same thing. And to that, we simply gave them the same reply. Even if we are targeted by them, we'll just desperately run away. Even if they appear right before us, we'll provide the information they seek

and will try to avoid fighting as much as possible. Well, in the first place, whether they'll be able to catch us or not is another story.]

《You seem calm》

[From the very start, we didn't show hostility towards them. We merely complied with requests of people that see them as enemies.]

Nebiros distinctly replied so.

《That's a researcher's opinion. They may not think so.》

[Even so, we don't think about openly going up against them like you people. For those who live in this world, DxD is a scary existence.]

《.....》

It was obvious that "you people" implied Satanael, who was involved in establishment of Khaos Brigade, Shalba, who was a central figure of Old Maou faction, Rizevim, who was a boss of a successor organization Qlippoth and included Hades with his leaders of Hell.

[— I wish you luck.]

Saying no more, Nebiros ended communication.

Hades once again thought about the current incident...the battle in Kyoto. Even though they disregarded cooperation, there were two primordial Gods who sided with Hades. There was nothing more to say about DxD which defeated them nonetheless. Furthermore, hasn't Ophis also appeared? The embodiment of infinity, who was hiding in shadows up till now, finally came to light—— . And on DxD's side—.

And adding up to this, the Sekiryuutei powered-up even more at the last moment. That was what defeated Tartarus.

—So the world doesn't wish for us, but for them?

Such thoughts creep into Hades' heart.

No, he'd already thought about that before. Even so, because there were several Gods that shared his goal, he thought that they are enough, no, more than enough to be able to act as the World's protectors better than them.

(They may have assistance from Gods of various myths and Ophis, however it seems like Longinus possessors' growth far exceeds our imagination.)

A vision sitting at a round table----an existence giving of aura which was jet black, with chaotic hue, Zoroaster Evil God Angra Manyu voiced such opinion.

The word is, DxD as well as agents from various Factions entered the Realm of the Dead and almost got control over it. It's just a matter of time before those people arrive here.

"If that's the case—" Hades thought.

《—Next time I'll make a move.》

Upon Hades' words, Angra Manyu agreed.

(Very well. Then why don't I associate with you until the end.)

When the two made up their minds, someone else's voice intervened.

[Oh, I'll go too.]

The one who uttered so was Verrine appearing on the monitor for reporting. One of transcendental-class beings created by using the Mother of Devils, Lilith.

Hades said.

《Verrine. I do not mind if you stay out of this.》

Despite him saying so, Verrine smiled bitterly.

[I'll go. In any case, we won't be able to participate in the tournament anymore. Besides, I want to fight with the Two Heavenly Dragon with whom Balberith is so engrossed...with Sekiryuutei. If he's unbelievably strong against women, I'd like to know how far I can get.]

《...If so, do as you wish. And I'll have you continue following the aforementioned object.》

[Of course.]

After that communication with Verrine got cut off.

A battle between leaders of Hell—Hades and anti-terrorist team DxD is reaching its last stage.

After that the battle against leaders of Hell and DxD will be called [Hell Disaster] and will be talked about along with [Demonic Beast Riot] and [Evil Dragons War].

VIP Meeting

After battle with primordial Gods—Erebus and Tartarus at the other side of Kyoto ended, Ajuka Beelzebub reported to the previous Governor of Grigori, Azazel, who continued his long fight inside isolation barrier against the legendary monster—Apocalypse Beast 666.

[I see, so DxD defeated Erebus and Tartarus, huh.]

Azazel replied through communication magic circle.

A battle against 666 had been carried out in shifts, and this was exactly the time when Azazel entrusted it to other Chief Gods and was taking a break.

While supplying water, Azazel said.

[I guess the decisive battle against that skeleton geezer is near.]

Ajuka nodded.

“Yes, because Erebus and Tartarus fell, following Nyx, it wouldn’t be strange if Hades comes out soon.”

Leaders of Hell, including Hades, lost the majority of the Gods that made up the alliance. Despite the fact that their motives coincided and they agreed with each other, there are a lot of selfish, egoistic ones among Gods. In the end, they decided to do things their own way, rushed to attack DxD, but got crushed…

No, Hades, who is affiliated with Olympus, probably considered such things. From the very beginning, he didn’t think that he would be able to win over the Gods… He simply thought that it would be good if DxD and Longinus possessors, whom he regarded as dangerous, would receive a blow---.

This was what Ajuka concluded.

Azazel changed the topic.

[The growth of Ryuuteimaru…what is your hypothesis about it?]

It seemed like Azazel was greatly interested in the information that reached him about Hyoudou Issei's Skithblathnir—Ryuuteimaru's transformation.

Ajuka said.

"Only one thing is clear. Rather, that was a blind spot. If there's something like a will to the Skithblathnir, that means it remembers that incident from before the decisive battle against Qlippoth."

Azazel replied with "Ha-" to Ajuka's words.

[----. …Even though we intended to seal everyone's lips and memories… I see, we didn't consider that possibility.]

"…Yes, I guess it has a causal relationship with what is now trying to happen behind the scenes."

A tablet near Ajuka displayed certain materials.

It demonstrated a mysterious silver creature-like thing indicated as [UL].

Azazel squinted and frowned.

[…A butterfly effect. No matter how much you try to correct it, history will go awry with an incident as trifling as a flap of a butterfly's wings, huh…]

Azazel took a breath and stated.

[…I sent to you what I think would be a method for controlling Ryuuteimaru, how is it?]

Displaying data he received from Azazel on a tablet, Ajuka replied.

“Yes, it’s an interesting concept. —Borrowing the power of a Primordial God.”

Azazel nodded.

[Yeah, borrowing power of one of Primordial Gods from Olympus—Eros, who governs over sex and love, and creating a power source. I’d call it—[Eros Engine].]

Ajuka was impressed how well it fitted Hyoudou Issei.

After all, the former Governor Azazel—is Sekiryuutei’s best mentor.

The development of [Eros Engine], a power source for controlling the grown Ryuuteimaru, was settled.

Ajuka said.

“Honestly, I have good news. It’s about Hyoudou Issei-kun. —There was a talk about promoting him to Ultimate-class devil.”

[—. …I see, so finally, huh.]

Even though he was surprised by Ajuka’s words, Azazel made an understanding face. Ajuka continued explaining.

“Of course, after advancing to a High-class Devil, he had achievements in matches, particularly, he defeated the new Chief-god of Northern Europe Vidar, Primordial Gods Nyx and Erebus as well as the God of the Abyss, Tartarus. In the past there was no precedent among Devils of defeating multiple God-class opponents. Frankly, there are even opinions that even promoting to Ultimate-class is not enough.”

[Are there any talks about promoting other guys too?]

“Yes, almost all members of Gremory and Hyoudou Issei’s peerages as well as Devils and Angels affiliated with DxD should receive a promotion.”

Hearing this, Azazel grumbled in a whispering tone.

[I’d say that a new medal must be introduced. Something like an [Oppai Dragon medal].]

“…With the way things are now, it might as well come true.”

Saying that, Ajuka smiled—.

Afterword

How long has it been? I'm Ishibumi Ichiei. This main story volume left some open time after the previous volume, Shin DxD 2.

I talked about my current situation in the Afterword of DX5; I already know there are some readers who only read the main story, so I will write it again. The people who are fully aware can skip the explanation here.

You see, due to the large amount of work in 2018, I was in very bad shape while writing Shin DxD 2. After that, my physical condition deteriorated on a business trip and I went straight to the hospital. I was sick due to overworking.

I am currently treating hypertension and herniation of the cervical spine (neck).

For a time, my blood pressure went up to almost 200mm Hg, and I suffered from headaches, palpitations, insomnia, as well as pain in my neck and shoulders, and numbness in my arm.

I am currently undergoing treatment and getting rest. I am also undergoing regular checkups at the hospital. I went through the most difficult phase, but even so I continue to repeat improving or getting worse.

Since my physical strength has also dropped significantly, I am slowing down my writing and adjusting the future schedule.

That's it, and I can see how this may have been surprising news for those who read only the main story.

This time, due to my weakness of physical strength, I focused only on the incidents that occurred in everyday life instead of tournament matches in this volume. This is because the physical strength to write

action scenes has dropped compared to my physical condition before.

Starting in this volume continues off from the last major volume, showing Ise's battles, and the others I'll probably do in Dx, like the ones for the Hero Faction matches and the Slashdog team matches. People who are looking forward to their matches, wait a little longer. I also think about doing as much as possible with Vali's matches in the main volume ..... But I think it will depend on my physical condition.

With that said, I will now explain Volume 3.

Ddraig VS Crom Cruach

First, the battle between Ddraig and Crom Cruach in the beginning was an add-on that I was unable to finish last time because I was exhausted due to my poor health and physical condition. I'd be happy if you read it as a part of the game from Volume 2.

Ryuuteimaru and Apocalypse AnswerArms A×A!

Well, I think it was immediately understood that A×A, which is the combination with Ryuuteimaru, uses GP03 Dendrobrium as a reference. It is the origin of the system called Gundam's armedbase.

In my generation, the final power-up I believe would be a combination with a huge weapon. Or rather, Ise's power-ups are mostly related to Gundam or Kamen Rider.

This A×A is something I originally thought of doing in Volume 2 ..... But that was impossible because of my physical condition and so I couldn't do it, and again I tried to do it now. But, that impact and strength as a result may have been the correct answer to use it this time, instead of last time.

Actually, Ryuuteimaru is still hiding its weapons. From now on more and more will appear, so look forward to it, please. To be honest, with only firepower and defense, it is already amongst the strongest class in the whole series and if Ise reaches True Dragon Deification (+ Eros Engine for A×A) ..... Something incredible will happen, for sure.

The God of the Abyss, Tartarus, was clearly very strong, and this time he was able to deal with everyone all at once: Ise and the others (including Cao Cao and Tobio) ..... But he couldn’t win against the power of A×A + the reinforcement of the Dragon God sisters.

About Mother and Daughter Kyuubi

Writing Yasaka-san was incredibly fun. As I thought, a beautiful older woman is great, indeed. Plus, this author likes older characters. I hope this will become popular.

Kunou made me tremble with her courage. When I thought about what Kunou's style was like, I thought it was her cheerful and courageous side, so I went from there. It was really great to open up with Ophis and Lilith. Instead of just a Kunou volume, it was Mother and Daughter Kyuubi volume, I feel.

Hero Faction, Cao Cao and SlashDog

This time, Cao Cao and others also shone because of the content of Volume 9 of the original edition (the first appearance of the Hero Faction) which you can remember. I wonder if everyone has a good taste for it.

Also, Cao Cao's Balance Breaker is associated with his talents, and as an author writing, I say: it is very strong. Originally, I believe it was an opponent that Ise couldn't beat in the state of True『Queen』at the time of Volume 12 of the original edition. Cao Cao's true power (the new technique he was talking about in the works) will be released in the future.

Although I still have more about Tobio and the depth of his「Abyss side」 Balance Breaker to reveal itself as well, I plan to introduce more of that in the future in Shin D×D and SLASHDØG.

The Devils that the Devil Mother Lilith gave birth to

Last time and this time as well, I wrote to contrast Balberith, Gressil and Sonneillon. Balberith's growth (?) is unexpectedly fun to write. I was surprised that the character was in a different direction from the original speculation. But the dignity of the first appearance disappeared.

What will happen to Balberith and Verrine next time after receiving the consequences of Gressil and Sonneilion's actions? Please stay tuned for the fate of these two.

About various things

The current sophomore group (Koneko, Ravel, and the others) were really fun to write about. I wonder if I managed to highlight a side that Ise and the others don't have. Ise and Xenovia grew up a little bit, after all. In return, Nimura Ruruko got out of control.

This time, I didn't have enough space to put in Saji who fought together in Volume 9 of the original edition. Also this time there was no space for the school trip group, and there was no involvement in the event 『Oppai Dragon』. I will let Saji and Sona have the opportunity to shine next time.

Thanks everyone. Miyama Zero-Sama, the person in charge T-sama, this time I was also in your care. I am sorry to bother you guys with my case of physical condition.

Next time, Shin DxD 4 volume will be Le Fay's volume and a little bit of Irina's. Next I intend to end the battle with the Alliance of Hell.

We've been in this fight for about two or three years now, so let's settle this. Vali, Sairaorg, and Crom Cruach will also participate.

Wait for the next volume to learn more about the mysterious existence that appeared in the last Life of the past volume (Shin DxD 2).

The 『DxD』 team has a power that appears to be the greatest deterrent to evil in the world. What do you personally expect in the fight against Hades? — Volume 4 has a shocking development, so please look forward to it.

Due to my physical condition, it may take some time for publication, but I will definitely deliver Volume 4 of Shin DxD and Volume 4 of SLASHDØG in the future, so I hope for your continued support in the future.

Anyway, when my body has recovered a bit, I will try to intensify my vigour. I want to get back to writing like I did before.

Credits

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